Lifestyle
Wear white after Labor Day? Why not? A3

Sports
Wilmington football starts next week! B5

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70TH YEAR NO. 35 PHONE 978-658-2346 AUGUST 29, 2024 www.HomeNewsHere.com 18 PAGES

Woburn Street and North students board the bus on the first day of school. More photos on page A10. (KMG Howlett photo)

Select Board approves requests for licenses, town spaces

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On Monday, Aug. 19, the Select Board held a public hearing, approved a number of requests, and received communications from the town manager and from residents.

Justin Miranda, HSE Manager of Covestro, requested to amend the flammable license for the business located at 730 Main St. Miranda explained that the increase is administrative, requested at the direction of the State Department of Fire and Safety, in order to create a 10 percent buffer.

Town Manager Eric Slagle confirmed that the building department, office of the town clerk, and fire department all recommended approval. With that in mind, the board voted in favor of the request.

A request to obtain a common victualer license for the property located at 2 Lowell St. for Peter's Roast Beef, which was placed on the agenda that night, was withdrawn by request due to an issue with the transfer of the title.

A letter from Slagle suggested options on the reuse of town buildings for the board to consider: either task the buildings in question to the Permanent Building Committee to review and provide suggestions, or appoint a new reuse committee. The new committee would be composed of a Select Board member, Select Board member resident appointees, the Public Works director, the superintendent of public buildings, and representatives from the Commission on Disabilities and the Historical Commission.

Chair Greg Bendel suggested that the other board members send their nominee name in for appointment by the end of September if the board was inclined to go with the new committee. He also explained that the committee would need to consider the building and make a recommendation, and any reuse would have to go before Town Meeting vote.

Lilia Maselli commented that she would invite people to share their interest with her and the other board members possibly through an application-type process.

Frank West proposed that they allow residents to submit themselves for consideration using the same form used for requests to join other committees. Slagle agreed that they could solicit applications on the website and share all the information submitted to the board members.

Bendel simply replied that the other board members could solicit their nominee however they prefer.

Maselli and West invited residents therefore to email them personally stating their interest and qualifications if they wanted to join the committee.

Kevin Caira noted that

SELECT | PAGE A10W

Further MSBA updates for the School Committee

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — During the School Committee meeting on Zoom at 5 p.m. on Aug. 19, the committee received several MSBA updates courtesy of Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand and Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott.

Brand presented to the committee the final updated version of the proposed educational program plan for the new Wildwood school. He explained that this included the program and everything that would take place in the new building.

Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott detailed that the MSBA provided feedback to ask for elaboration on a few things such as the content of a health class for kindergarten students and the use of teacher collaboration space.

She shared they provided back to the MSBA that the space would be used by adult educators and staff for things like data meetings. She also mentioned that the MSBA was interested in equity provided to families to assist in participation in CARES or music programs, training for staff on how to utilize the new space, and adapting for students with special needs.

They also asked for specifics about the suggested STEM space and what activities would take place there.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked where the district currently falls short and how the new building could better meet the needs of their students. Brand replied that the new building would be modern in terms of technology and provide different spaces to meet the educational environment.

"We know that in order to reach students, there needs to be variation of teaching and learning spaces besides classrooms," Brand continued.

MSBA | PAGE A9W

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Local pet pantry to serve Tewksbury

By PAIGE IMPINK
News Correspondent
paige@yourtowncrier.com

TEWKSBURY — The Wilmington Animal Food Pantry is starting a new partnership with the Tewksbury Community Pantry. Thanks to the efforts of former clerk Jomarie Buckley, the TCP will be providing pet food to the organization and offering its patrons the chance to apply for assistance with their pet food needs.

"Over the last year, the Tewksbury Community Pantry saw an increase in queries for pet food from our clients. With prices rising every day, the concern about feeding our pets wasn't unique to Tewksbury. I approached the Wilmington pet food pantry to help bring much needed food and supplies directly to peoples' homes," said Buckley.

Despite its name, the Wilmington Animal Food Pantry is not affiliated with the Town of Wilmington's food pantry. Rather, the group, started by founder Mackenzie Whalen-Dunn, is part of the Rescue Allies nonprofit organization, which seeks to create Animal Food Pantries to provide assistance to families struggling to feed their animals.

According to Rescue Allies, many people have made the heart wrenching decision to surrender their animals to a shelter because they are temporarily struggling financially. Having access to a pet food pantry empowers neighbors to help neighbors and to take the strain off shelters by keeping loved animals in their homes.

The MSPCA lists the cost of caring for a pet as one of the top reasons people surrender a pet to a shelter.

Through the efforts of the Wilmington Animal Food Pantry, Tewksbury residents will now be able to either utilize the program or offer sup-

PET | PAGE A9W

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▲ Stop by the library between Tuesday, Sept. 3 and Saturday, Sept. 7 to receive a 3x3 inch canvas for this years Tiny Art Show as supplies last! All ages are welcome to create a tiny art piece and have it displayed at the library! (Courtesy photo)

Wilmington Library News:

Tiny Art Show canvas pick up begins on Tuesday, Sept. 3

The Library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day weekend.

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2 p.m.
Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Estate Planning
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m.
Come join Alexander McIsaac, Esq. for an information session and discussion regarding estate planning and what options exist.

Pints + Pages
Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
This group meets on the first Thursday of every other month. The book discussion will be hosted by librarians from the Wilmington and Tewksbury Public Libraries. Meeting location rotates between Wilmington, Tewksbury, and surrounding towns. This month's book selection is The Secret History by Donna Tartt. This month's meeting location will be at Horseshoe Grille in North Reading.

Needleworkers
Friday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.
This is a social group for those who do any kind of needle craft. Bring your knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. and enjoy conversation and camaraderie. Drop-in.

VIRTUAL Fiction Critique Group
Saturday, Sept. 7, 9:15 a.m.
Love writing fiction? Whether you are drafting a short story or a novel, joining our Critique Group is a great opportunity to meet other writers and get constructive feedback. Open to all experience levels writing in all genres. Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alevras. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Adult Services Librarian Erin Driscoll at *adultservices@wilmlibrary.org*.

Youth Programs

Costume Craze Collection Begins
Tuesday, Sept. 3, All Day
Costume Craze is back! Bring your new or lightly worn kids and teen Halloween costumes to the library between 9/3 and 10/10! Come back on Saturday, October 12 to find a new-to-you kids or teen costume! All ages

Tiny Art Show Canvas Pick Up
Tuesday, Sept. 3, All Day - Saturday, Sept. 7, All Day
The first 150 patrons to come by the library between 9/3 to 9/7 will receive a free 3x3 canvas to participate in this year's Tiny Art Show! All ages

Preschool Storytime
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m.
Join us at our Preschool Storytime! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 3-6

Time for Twos
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m.
Join us at our Time for Twos! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Age 2

Lil' Bookworms
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 4 p.m.
A book club for students in Kindergarten through Grade 2. Children will enjoy a variety of books while practicing reading and comprehension skills. Each session will end with time to socialize during a craft or activity! Grades K-2

Baby Time
Thursday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.
Join us at our Baby Time! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 0-23 months

LEGO Building
Friday, Sept. 6, 3:45 p.m.
Build with LEGOs at the same time as other LEGO fans and display what you make in the library! Grades K-5

Teen DnD
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2 p.m.
Interested in finding out more about this fantasy tabletop role-playing game, or looking for a group to play with? This month's session will be IN PERSON at the library. You may also participate on Discord, a private server. We use DnDBeyond to track and create our characters. Grades 6-12

Drawing Manga/Anime
Saturday, Sept. 7, 2 p.m.
Are you interested in drawing manga style characters or want to improve your skills? We'll practice drawing fundamentals such as line quality and basic shapes. We'll also talk about character design, beginner mistakes, and resources for drawing. Grades 6-12

Additional Information

Book Store Next Door
The Book Store Next Door is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop discount books! Paperbacks for $1 and hardcovers for $2. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Library and all proceeds help support library programs.

Museum Passes
The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list on our website!

WML In-Person Programming
Registration is required for most in-person programs. Please check our website on the day of the program to confirm location. Masks are no longer required for vaccinated patrons while visiting the library.

WML Virtual Programming
The library continues to offer a variety of virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to *wilmlibrary.org* to register or call 978-658-2967.

Advertisement

It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois

RETIREMENT PLAN AND IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022).

Account owners in a workplace retirement plan (for example, 401(k) or profit-sharing plan) can delay taking their RMDs until the year they retire, unless they're a 5% owner of the business sponsoring the plan.

Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner. Designated Roth accounts in a 401(k) or 403(b) plan are subject to the RMD rules for 2022 and 2023. However, for 2024 and later years, RMDs are no longer required from designated Roth accounts. You must still take RMDs from designated Roth accounts for 2023, including those with a required beginning date of April 1, 2024.

You can withdraw more than the minimum required amount.

Your withdrawals are included in taxable income except for any part that was already taxed (your basis) or that can be received tax-free (such as qualified distributions from designated Roth accounts).

Beginning in 2023, the SECURE 2.0 Act raised the age that you must begin taking RMDs to age 73. If you reached age 72 in 2023, the required beginning date for your first RMD is April 1, 2025.

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News and notes from WCTV

Hello friends and neighbors! Here's what's going on at WCTV!

NEW PROGRAMMING JUST FOR YOU!

Wildwood School Building Committee — Aug 20, 2024
Wondering what's going on with the Wildwood School Building plan?
Keep yourself informed about this important project by taking a look at the meeting from Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.

Through Fire and Oak Episode 6 — Behind the Smoker: A Day in Our Lives
In the mid-season premiere of Through Fire and Oak, Erica and Sean sit down to talk about the balancing of running the business side of the restaurant, handling the cooking, and the types of people who come to order food or catering. On top of that, Sean reveals why he showed up to the podcast studio exhausted... you don't want to miss out on this new episode!
*These programs can be viewed on WCTV channels or on WCTV's You tube channel: WCTV Wilmington.

Meetings covered by WCTV:
No Meetings

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Access Channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 6.
To watch programs On-Demand or for more information check us out at *WCTV.org*.

WCTV is located at 10 Waltham St., Wilmington
Office hours by appointment: (978) 657-4066.

Questions about WCTV? Contact: *info@wctv.org*

Lifestyle

Wear white after Labor Day? Why not

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

As we fast approach the final days of summer, we will soon say goodbye to all things affiliated with the warm weather season.

Labor Day has long been considered the unofficial end of summer, a time to take one more dip in the pool, a last summer visit to the beach, or spark up the grill for the last cookout of the season.

Many also consider Labor Day Weekend the last "proper" time to adorn our favorite white shorts, dress or outfit until next Memorial Day Weekend.

We have all been warned about the fashion faux pas legend of wearing white colored clothing after Labor Day, but many may be unsure why breaking this rule has been thought of as a longtime taboo in the world of fashion.

In the pre-indoor air conditioning era, wearing white and light colored clothing was popular as a means for keeping cool during the hot summer months because white tends to reflect the heat of the sun.

Darker colors and heavy fabrics were reserved for the colder months as dark colors tend to absorb the heat of the sun.

However, turn of the century city streets were often unpaved dirt, and filled with waste and debris. So, when folk returned to the city after extended summer vacations to the shore and countryside, their light colored summer outfits would soil easily.

Since it was impractical to wear white in the city, white clothing was usually put away for the next vacation season.

For that time period, all of these points do make sense, but still does not fully explain why there was such a hard fast rule about "no white after Labor Day."

To further understand the harsh guidelines of the "no white after Labor Day" rule, one must keep in mind that during the turn of the century, most fashion rules were dictated by the wealthy, and lightweight, breezy dresses and white linen suits were all the rage in upper class social circles in the early 20th century.

If one were to be seen wearing white after Labor Day during this era, it was assumed they had the financial means to continue to summer vacation and travel abroad.

Some historians agree that wearing white was also used as a way for the wealthy to further separate themselves visually from the working class.

Those who could not afford to travel, take vacations, and purchase the appropriate and expensive "summer white" wardrobe, but were seen wearing a white outfit, were thought of as dressing "above their class," which at the time was considered to be a fatal social mistake.

The color white for clothing further separated the class because it was impractical for the working class to wear light-colored clothing as it would soil and stain easily while at work.

This was not a concern for the wealthy who were free to wear white clothing without the worry of hard labor staining their outfit.

Further proof of white colored clothing being reserved for the wealthy lies on the 19th century tennis courts of England.

During that time period the game of tennis had become a popular co-ed leisure sport for the wealthy, and by 1877 London's renowned Wimbledon Club made a strict requirement that only white outfits could be worn on the tennis courts.

Although white uniforms for tennis playing had been popular since the 16th century, it is suspected that Wimbledon had several other reasons for implementing the strict dress code.

The most obvious reason for the white uniform was to keep the players as cool as possible. At that time, men and women were not allowed to wear short sleeves, tank tops or shorts, and typically played in long pants and long skirts. It was also considered extremely unseemly to show sweat or perspiration in public, and wearing the color white often masked the appearance of sweat.

It is true that white clothing does not easily show perspiration stains, but it does easily show dirt stains. The all white tennis uniform was thought to be another way for the wealthy to easily distinguish themselves from the landscaper, maintenance and serving workers of the club.

Despite an apparent level of classification distinction that may have promoted the mandatory all white tennis uniform at Wimbledon, the strict requirement of all white uniforms is still in force today, most likely as a proper nod to the traditions of Wimbledon.

But since the world renowned Wimbledon Tennis Tournament is always held during the summer, it still falls within the fashion rule of "no white after Labor Day."

Back in the U.S.A., by the 1950's the "no white after Labor Day" rule had become a benchmark of refinement.

Those who made the socially fatal mistake of wearing white after Labor Day found that this fashion faux pas was not easily ignored among certain social circles. It was often considered an error in judgment that was socially hard to recover from.

Regardless of this socially enforced fashion rule held throughout the last century or so, there have always been innovative trend setters who believed that fashion rules were made to be broken.

As early as the 1920's, fashion icon CoCo Chanel revolutionized the fashion industry in many ways, including keeping white colored clothing as a permanent staple in her wardrobe year round.

Widespread rethinking of this Labor Day fashion rule took place in the 1970's when many fashion designers started to feature cold weather looks in "Winter White" color themes.

Today, the fashion competition/reality show Project Runway promotes the phrase "In fashion, one day you are in, the next you are out."

This statement holds true as fashion icons from Zendaya to GiGi Hadid, to Michelle Obama can all be seen wearing the color white year round, removing any "classification" the color white may have held in fashion from years past.

This Labor Day, as many prepare for the end of vacation and the start of school and work, you can say goodbye with a tear in your eye to many of your favorite summer activities until next year.

But there is no longer any reason to say goodbye to your favorite white outfits and separates. Feel guilt free to keep those white shorts and tops in your wardrobe well past the celebration of Labor Day, or at least until the first fall of that other white stuff, snow.

Even then, a nice white wool or faux fur coat will always keep you looking fashion forward and feeling like a "class act" without the stigmatism of a social classification.

▲ Wearing all white uniforms on the courts has been a strict rule at London's Wimbledon Club since 1877, a tradition that is still honored today. Although implemented for the comfort and composure of the players, the all-white outfit rule also helped the wealthy tennis players visually separate themselves from the working class that were employed at the club.

(Heather Burns photos)

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TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

Select Board
Sale of Town Property

PURSUANT TO THE GENERAL TOWN BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 3.12, SECTION 3.12.010
And
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40, SECTION 3
And
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 30B, SECTION 16

The Town of Tewksbury will be accepting sealed Bids for the sale of Town property. Bids will be for individual parcels as follows:

Newton Avenue Assessors Map 47 Lot 156
283 Pleasant Street Assessors Map 46 Lot 2

Bids for each parcel shall be received by the Town of Tewksbury c/o Town Manager's Office, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876; and at the time and lace specified below; the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Date of Sale: Friday, September 27, 2024; Time of Sale: 11:00 AM; Place of Sale: Town Hall, 1009 Main Street Tewksbury, MA 01876. For information pertaining to each parcel's bid, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 978-640-4300. The Town of Tewksbury reserves the right to reject any and all bids if it be in the public interest to do so.

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OPINION

Tewksbury Community Market to host 30 vendors

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Community Market is open on Thursday, Aug. 29, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Livingston Street Park, behind the Recreation Center (288 Livingston St.).

The Aug. 29 market will feature 30 vendors, including:

FOOD VENDORS

- Aaronap Cellars (wine)
- Atrevete A Probar Food Truck (tacos, quesadillas, loaded nachos, loaded fries)
- Bittersweet Herb Farm (jams, oils, balsamic vinegar, seasonings, finishing sauces)
- Black Sheep Craft Ice Cream (craft ice cream in pints & half pints)
- BtzNPeace Farm (fresh vegetables, maple syrup, eggs, plants, flowers)
- Cupcake City (gourmet cupcakes)
- Drive-By Pies (fruit pies, baked goods)
- Farmer Palmer (garlic products)
- Fudge n Stuff (homemade fudge, popcorn, kettle corn, candied nuts)
- F-Word Farm (craft vinegar)
- Liberty Hill Farm (fresh colorful produce, mushroom, fresh eggs)
- Olive World (olives, almond butter)
- Pleasant Valley Gardens (fresh vegetables, local fruit, aprons, hats, tote bags)
- Polish Prince Pierogi (pierogi & chrusciki)
- Seafood Express (seafood)
- Sophie's Apples (candy apples)
- The Stand "Shaken Not Stirred" (fresh squeezed lemonade)
- Tewksbury Honey (honey & honey related products)
- Tewksbury Public Library Community Garden (organic vegetables, fruit, flowers)
- Thwaites Market Food Truck (meat pies)
- What The Fork Food Truck (smash burgers, chicken sandwiches, fries & more)

ARTISANS & CRAFTERS

- George Hawley (embroidered items)
- Kidz Kouture (headbands)
- Kona Crafted by The Pawdicurist (handcrafted dog accessories)
- Lorraine's Crafts (hanging towels, placemats, table runners, bibs, aprons)
- Lovely Essence Candle (soy wax candles, scent-based products)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Alzheimer's Association
- Billerica Cat Care Coalition
- Community Teamwork (CTI)
- Tewksbury Conservation Department

The Tewksbury Community Market runs from 4 to 7 p.m. every Thursday in June, July, August and September (minus July 4). Please note the Market has more than 70 vendors (30-35 each at any given market) and its lineup changes from week to week.

Visit the Tewksbury Community Market's website at *http://www.tewksburymarket.com* to learn more. Follow the Tewksbury Community Market's Facebook (*@TewksburyMarket*), Twitter (*@TewksburyMarket*), and Instagram (*@TewksburyCommunityMarket*) for additional market updates throughout the season.

Have a question about the market? Contact Community/Economic Development Planner Alex Lowder at 978-640-4370 x 248 or *alowder@tewksbury-ma.gov* and Community Outreach Librarian Robert Hayes at 978-640-4490 x 205 or *rhayes@tewksburypl.org*.

Notice of advance removal and depositing of early voted ballots

TEWKSBURY — In accordance with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Regulations 47.12 and under the provision of section 10 (h) of Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022, the Town of Tewksbury already has opened or will be opening and/or depositing Early Voted Ballots at Town Hall, 1009 Main St. at the following sessions for the Sept. 3, 2024 state primary:

- Monday, Aug. 26 beginning at 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 27 beginning at 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 28 beginning at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 29 beginning at 9 a.m.
- Friday, Aug. 30 beginning at 9 a.m.

(Courtesy photo)

Attorney general endorses Chau for Register of Deeds

LOWELL — Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell endorsed Lowell City Councilor and former Mayor Sokhary Chau in his race to become Middlesex North's next Register of Deeds.

"Sokhary's dedication to service and vision for the communities he serves is second to none. I'm behind Sokhary because he puts all of himself into everything he does," said Attorney General Campbell. "As Register, no one will work harder to protect homeowners and earn the trust of the communities the Registry serves. I'm proud to support Sokhary and am excited to see what he'll accomplish."

"Attorney General Campbell is a dynamic leader whose support means so much to me," said Chau. "I'm honored to have her support and hope to have the opportunity to work with her as Register of Deeds to make the region a better place for everyone who calls it home."

Campbell's support of Chau comes after a series of high level endorsements, including Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and State Auditor Diana DiZoglio. Before entering the race for Register of Deeds, Chau served as a Lowell City Councilor and as the first Cambodian-American mayor in United States history.

Chau's platform includes leveraging his experience working with elected officials at all levels of government to secure increased funding for the Registry, instituting outreach programs and expanding the Registry's presence in the communities it serves, and implementing new technology to enhance user accessibility and better safeguard homeowners' sensitive information.

Attorney General Campbell was elected in 2022 after securing more than 62% of the vote. Prior to her tenure as Attorney General, Campbell served as a Boston City Councilor after being elected in 2015. She would later serve as the council's president from 2018 to 2020.

The Middlesex North Registry has been run by Register Richard Howe Jr. since 1995 and serves the communities of Billerica, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford, and Wilmington.

Voters can cast their ballot for Chau in this fall's Democratic Primary on Sept. 3, or cast an early ballot by mail or in-person by contacting their local election authority.

Calendar raffle to benefit the senior center

TEWKSBURY — The Friends of the Elderly are holding a calendar raffle to benefit programs at the Senior Center. Purchase a Friends September calendar raffle ticket for $20 and have 30 chances — one each day — to win the prizes. When you win, your name goes back into the mix and you have a chance to win again.

Pick up a ticket at the Senior Center reception area.

Prizes include Market Basket gift cards, McDonald's gift cards, Avon products, and more!

Stop by and help raise funds for programming at the Senior Center!

Book Stew Review

'The Quiet Damage: QAnon and the Destruction of the American Family' by Jesselyn Cook

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This book focuses on five families, each with a member who has become part of the completely irrational QAnon cult. Each family has other relatives desperate to understand and rescue out of love and concern, but for four of the five, it's hopeless.

The reasons for the cult members signing up seems to begin with loneliness and isolation, and then relief in finding others to validate their paranoia.

One is the widow of a suicidal act; the second had been misdiagnosed with pancreatic cancer and spent most of her time seeking vengeance against the medical profession; one was disillusioned when Bernie Sanders did not win the nomination; the fourth was a Black woman who had been bullied in all-white schools; and the last one lived with an incredibly painful medical condition that rendered him unable to function for his family until a treatment finally put him back on his feet but still left his wife as the head of the household.

Each traumatized person was ripe for believing murky online explanations for events that could be explained rationally, to rational people.

The author follows the devastated family members as they try such tactics as kindness and common sense, but to no avail. One possible solution suggested to the author is a twelve-step-like program, with sponsors and meetings, for those so inflicted.

Want your opinion heard?

We LOVE your letters!
Send Letters to the Editor to:
office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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OBITUARY

William J. Robinson

Served in the Air Force

William J. Robinson, Bill or Billy as known to his friends and family, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 18 after a lengthy battle with MS.

Born to the late William J. Robinson Jr and the late Marie Diane (Donnaruma) Robinson on Oct. 4, 1961. Bill was born in Malden and grew up in Tewksbury where he graduated from Shawsheen Tech, class of 1979.

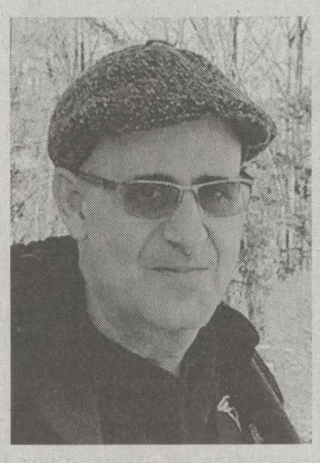
He proudly served in the Air Force from 1979 - 1983 where he was stationed in the Philippines. After serving our country he earned his associate's degree in business at Hesser College. He then went to work in IT for years at Joyce Chen before landing at Holt & Bugbee where he worked for over 20 years before retiring.

Bill married Nanci in 1990 and bought their house in Wilmington to raise their family. Bill enjoyed exercising and taking long walks with family and friends. He enjoyed being a member of Wilmington Minutemen for many years and attending all their events including his favorites at the Ancient & Honorable Installation of officers, midnight walk to Concord, the Pancake Breakfast, and many encampments over the years.

He was a proud member of the Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks for many years. Some of his favorite pastimes were going to many country concerts over the years and watching openers later become headliners. He loved stopping into local stores and playing Keno, The Daily Number, and other games.

Thanks to everyone who always knew his "regular" when his wife & daughter couldn't explain what he wanted to play! He enjoyed traveling to Disney, cruises, the Caribbean, and around New England with his family.

Bill is survived by his wife Nanci Ann (Little) Robinson and his daughter Kristina Robinson and her fiancé Edward Bromander and his sisters Lisa M. Curtis and her husband Richard, of Vero Beach, FL, and Kristine M. Sheedy and her husband Matthew, of Tewksbury; his nieces and nephews Amanda Curtis, Jennifer Pantages and her husband Nick, and Sam Canelas and his girlfriend Kendall Paolella and extended family and many friends.



Family and friends attended Calling hours on Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rt. 62), Wilmington, immediately followed by a Service to celebrate Bill's life at noon. Interment with Military Honors followed in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Bill's memory to the National Multiple Sclerosis Association, 375 Kings Highway North, Suite B, Cherry Hill NJ 08034 or to your favorite Veteran's Charity.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at *www.nicholsfuneralhome.com*

Shawsheen Tech announces openings for grade 10 transfer students

BILLERICA — Shawsheen Valley Technical High School is now accepting applications for a limited number of transfer students entering the 10th grade. As a premier vocational high school, Shawsheen offers students an exceptional educational experience with options to study more than 20 industry-relevant vocational programs.

Currently, there are limited 10th grade openings in eight programs: Advanced Manufacturing, Business Technology and Marketing, Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management, Design & Visual Communications, Drafting, Electronics/Engineering Technology, Graphic Communications, and Information Support Services & Networking/Programming and Web Development.

The application process for transfer students aligns with the guidelines detailed on the district's website *www.ShawsheenTech.org/Admissions*. Metrics include evaluating attendance, academic performance, disciplinary records, personal recommendations, and an interview.

Prospective students are encouraged to apply at *www.ShawsheenTech.org/Admissions*, and inquiries can be directed to *registration@shawtech.org*.

Admission for the class of 2029, next year's freshman class, will open on Oct. 1, 2024.

About Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTSD) stands as a beacon of educational excellence, placing students at the center of its mission. Proudly serving the communities of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington, Shawsheen caters to the diverse needs of over 1,300 students in grades 9-12.

Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education, Shawsheen seamlessly integrates academics with a dynamic range of over 20 vocational-technical career pathways. Located in Billerica, Massachusetts, Shawsheen's expansive 100-acre campus hosts an exceptional school building adorned with high-end and industry relevant equipment, athletic fields, twenty-four varsity sports, and a plethora of extra-curricular clubs and activities.

With a passionate faculty and staff, Shawsheen remains committed to its mission: "to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world."

Beyond its traditional academic offerings, Shawsheen Valley Technical School extends its educational reach through Adult Education, Afterschool Enrichment Programs, Community-focused Events, and Summer Programs.

The district continually strives to expand its rich and diverse programming, embracing the belief that education is a lifelong, continuous process with numerous paths leading to a successful and fulfilling life.

UniFirst announces 2024 Aldo Croatti and Ronald D. Croatti Scholarship recipients

WILMINGTON —Uni First Corporation (NYSE: UNF), a North American leader in providing customized business uniform programs, facility service products and first aid and safety services, proudly announces the 2024 recipients of the Aldo Croatti and Ronald D. Croatti Scholarships. Since the scholarships' inception, UniFirst has awarded nearly one million dollars in financial support to deserving students and employees, underscoring the company's commitment to education and professional growth.

Each year, 12 Aldo Croatti Scholarships are granted to outstanding students pursuing full-time undergraduate studies at accredited colleges or vocational/technical schools. This scholarship honors the legacy of UniFirst's founder, Aldo Croatti.

Since 2004, the program has provided over $500,000 to support students in their academic endeavors. Eligibility is open to children of full-time UniFirst or UniFirst subsidiary employees with at least one year of service.

The 2024 Aldo Croatti Scholarship recipients collectively received $22,000 toward their educational goals. The recipients are:

- **Aagam Prakash** | Wilmington | Emory University
- Abigayle Levine | Portland, ME | Saint Joseph's College
- **Alexia Arthur** | Wilmington | University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Ashley Myhr | Nashville, TN | Tennessee Tech University
- Cali Bean | Fort Myers, FL | University of Florida
- **Ella Dickinson** | Wilmington | University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Emily Gariepy | Springfield | University of Vermont
- **Haiven Potts** | Wilmington | Union University
- Isabella Cerna | Charlotte, NC | University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Isabella Dolce | Jacksonville, FL | University of Florida
- Makenna Carricato | Pittsburgh, PA | University of Pittsburgh
- **Margaret Ritchie** | Wilmington | Providence College

Ashley Myhr, a 2024 Aldo Croatti Scholarship recipient, expressed her gratitude, saying, "Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me because my dad has been working at Uni First for as long as I can remember. I am so grateful that I get to apply this scholarship to my tuition and make my parents proud."

The Ronald D. Croatti Scholarship provides financial support to full-time UniFirst employees. This scholarship honors Aldo's son, Ron, who led the company from 1991 until his passing in 2017. The program assists those pursuing full- or part-time undergraduate or graduate studies at accredited colleges or vocational/technical schools for an entire academic year. Since 2015, UniFirst has given over $350,000 to support the educational aspirations of its employees.

The 2024 Ronald D. Croatti Scholarship recipients will collectively receive $33,740 toward their educational goals. The recipients are as follows:

- **Jose Nunez** | Wilmington | Liberty University
- Zach LePage | Springfield | Southern New Hampshire University
- **Stephanie Roman** | Wilmington | Southern New Hampshire University
- Andrew Rohlfs | Jackson, MI | Northwood University
- Shannon Howard | Richland, WA | Columbia Basin Community College
- Khai Lian | Owensboro, KY | Brescia University
- Clare Berlanga | San Antonio, TX | San Antonio College/University of the Incarnate Word
- John Leugers | Cincinnati, OH | Rivier University
- Dawn McNelis | San Antonio, TX | Southern New Hampshire University
- Vincent Barbato | Watervliet, NY | Brescia University
- Trevor Cottle | Salt Lake City, UT | Western Governors University
- Sergio Ledezma | Ontario, CA | Riverside Community College

John Leugers, a 2024 Ronald D. Croatti Scholarship recipient, expressed his deep appreciation, stating, "This scholarship means a lot to me since I worked for Ron Croatti for so many years. He shaped me into the leader that I am today. It is an absolute honor to continue my development with a scholarship that was created in memory of him and his remarkable contributions to this great company and its team partners."

"By investing in the education and development of our UniFirst team partners and their families, we are also investing in the future of our company," said Steven Sintros, UniFirst President and CEO. "Both Aldo and Ron Croatti were big proponents of supporting our employees' educational aspirations. These scholarship programs continue their legacy by nurturing the potential within our UniFirst family."

UniFirst congratulates all the scholarship recipients and their families. The company remains committed to supporting the growth and education of its team members, reflecting the values and vision of its founder.

For more information, visit *UniFirst.com*.

About UniFirst

Headquartered in Wilmington, UniFirst Corporation (NYSE: UNF) is a North American leader in the supply and servicing of uniform and workwear programs, facility service products, as well as first aid and safety supplies and services. Together with its subsidiaries, the company also manages specialized garment programs for the cleanroom and nuclear industries.

In addition to partnering with leading brands, UniFirst manufactures its own branded workwear, protective clothing, and floor-care products at its five company-owned ISO-9001-certified manufacturing facilities.

With more than 270 service locations, over 300,000 customer locations, and 16,000-plus employee Team Partners, the company outfits more than 2 million workers every day. For additional information, contact UniFirst at 888.296.2740 or visit UniFirst.com.

Follow UniFirst on Social Media: LinkedIn, Facebook, X, YouTube, Instagram.

Upcoming local events

August 29, Tewksbury Community Market, Livingston Street Recreation Area — Over 30 vendors, food trucks, fresh produce, artisans, and community partners. 4 - 7 p.m.

August 29, RC Squadron Flight lessons, Ogonowski Field, 5 p.m. until dusk. Pinnacle Street, Tewksbury. 495th RC Squadron

August 30, Bingo at St. Williams Church, 6:30 p.m., Church hall. For details email *stwilliams.office@gmail.com*

August 30, Weekly Car Show, 4 p.m. to dark, in the Ocean State Job Lot/Papa Gino's plaza parking lot at 553 Main St.

August 31, Blood Drive, Wamesit Masonic Lodge, 70 Victor Drive. Please schedule an appointment by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor app or by visiting *https://www.redcrossblood.org/*.

August 31, Free paper shredding, Enterprise Bank, 910 Andover St., Tewksbury, 9 a.m. - noon. Limit 10 boxes per person. Staples okay but remove rubber bands or paperclips.

September 11, Tewksbury Garden Club kickoff meeting, 7 p.m., Senior Center, *tewksburygardenclub.com*

September 15, Family Day at Northeast Christian Church, 12 - 4 p.m., Bouncy houses, food, games. Public invited. 995 Andover St.

September 28, Community Health Fair, Free health screenings, giveaways, meet your state representatives, learn about public health, Public Health Museum, 365 East St., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

September 29, Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library, Bowl-a-thon at Wamesit Lanes, 6-9 p.m. $30 per person or $150 for a team of six includes two hours of lane rental, shoe rental, pizza and unlimited soft drinks. Tickets may be purchased online at the Friends website, *https://www.friendstplibrary.org/bowlathonwamesit*

Thursdays, Saturdays, and the first Sunday of the month, Public Health Museum, 365 East St., Open for indoor and campus tours. Check website for times. *Publichealthmuseum.org*

Book Store Next Door, **Wednesdays and Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds help support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults $3, seniors and youth age 3-12 $2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, **Mondays and Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62),Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, **Saturdays and Sundays**, Noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

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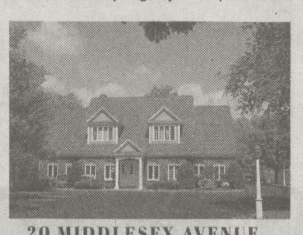

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12 ideas for home improvement projects to do now

(BPT) - Now is the perfect time to breathe new life into your living space, whether you're looking to revamp your kitchen, upgrade your landscaping or tackle that long-overdue bathroom renovation.

To get you started, here are some ideas from the pros at Neighborly's trusted network of local home service brands, including Mr. Rooter, Mr. Electric, Aire Serv, Mr. Appliance, Mosquito Joe, Precision Garage Door Service and Molly Maid.

Invest in sustainable features. Updating your bathroom? Investing in eco-friendly upgrades like a tankless water heater or water-conserving toilet is good for the environment. It can lead to a higher return on investment when you decide it's time to move.

Install ceiling fans. Ceiling fans get the air moving in your home, and are a decorative addition to any room. Look for styles that complement your decor, and even add a dramatic flair.

Declutter. Take a look around your bedroom, living room or family room. Too much clutter? Decluttering your home can seem like a daunting task, but Molly Maid says it boils down to this: take note of what the room is supposed to be used for and remove anything that doesn't pertain to that use. A pro tip to make it even easier: designate bins for items to keep, donate, sell or discard. Just toss the items in the appropriate bin and you'll be halfway there.

Inspect your dryer for allergens. When you hear the word "allergies," it's easy to think of the more common allergens like pollen and dust, but there are several hidden allergens in homes that can cause a host of health issues. Inspect your dryer vents for mold, lint or animal droppings, and call Dryer Vent Wizard to remove dangerous foreign objects. And while you're at it, organize your laundry room with new shelving or a hanging rod.

Switch to an HVAC zoning system. This allows you to regulate the temperature levels throughout different areas of your home to help keep every nook and cranny comfortable. Aire Serv also helps reduce energy consumption by allowing you to adjust temperatures in your home according to use.

Install kitchen ventilation. Properly ventilating your cooktop can help improve the overall air quality in your home and add a decorative, even dramatic, touch to the space.

Install crown molding. The best way to elevate your living space and make your ceiling appear higher is by installing crown molding. Not only is crown molding classic and timeless, but it also draws the eye upward. This will make the rooms in your home seem bigger than they are.

Replace your garage door. A new garage door can significantly increase your home's value and curb appeal. Choosing an experienced, highly-rated company like Precision Garage Door Service can save money in the long term and give you peace of mind that your garage door is functioning optimally.

Landscape with retaining walls. Retaining walls help manage a sloping landscape and add character and beauty to your property. Transform your yard and

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS NEXT PAGE

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How to buy a home in a high interest rate environment

(BPT) - Following years of all-time low mortgage interest rates, 2023 saw rates fluctuate between 6% and 8%, complicating the plans of some homebuyers, particularly those looking to purchase their first home. What many renters who are looking to become homeowners may not realize is that mortgage rates are only one aspect of affordability, which should be viewed as a three-legged stool: home price, mortgage interest rate, and down payment. Even in a challenging interest rate or home price environment, private mortgage insurance (MI) can be used to help low down payment borrowers achieve the American dream of homeownership.

In some markets, high interest rates have cooled the trajectory of home price appreciation; with home sales dropping 18.7% from 2022 to 2023 and the national median home price increasing less than 1% in 2023. This is good news for first-time homebuyers who saw home prices in some markets increase 20% or 30% in prior years.

So, if the home price is within range, how much cash do you need for a down payment? You may think it is 20%, but the truth is, you can qualify for a mortgage with as little as 3% down.

According to U.S. Mortgage Insurers, private MI has helped nearly 39 million borrowers access homeownership with low down payments. Further, private MI helped nearly 800,000 homeowners purchase a home or refinance a mortgage in 2023, with nearly 35% having incomes below $75,000 and more than 64% of those loans going to first-time buyers. In addition, the most common form of private MI, paid monthly by the borrower, helps homeowners begin building equity sooner and is also only a temporary cost that can be cancelled after 20% equity is established. Importantly, once private MI is cancelled, the monthly mortgage payment goes down, unlike loans backed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), a government program featuring monthly MI premiums that are generally not cancellable.

Each homebuyer's finances are different, therefore it is important to do the math before buying a home. Home prices and interest rates impact the monthly cost, but luckily the private MI industry is able to help homebuyers overcome one of the biggest hurdles to homeownership: the need for a large cash down payment.

There is a saying, "date the rate, marry the home." Borrowers should always stay within their budget, but those who purchase a home now with a low down payment may be able to refinance later when rates decrease. These borrowers can achieve the American dream of homeownership sooner, start to build equity and avoid some competition from other borrowers who are waiting on rates to drop.

If you're interested in learning more about private MI, visit lowdownpaymentfacts.com to learn more about your homeownership options.

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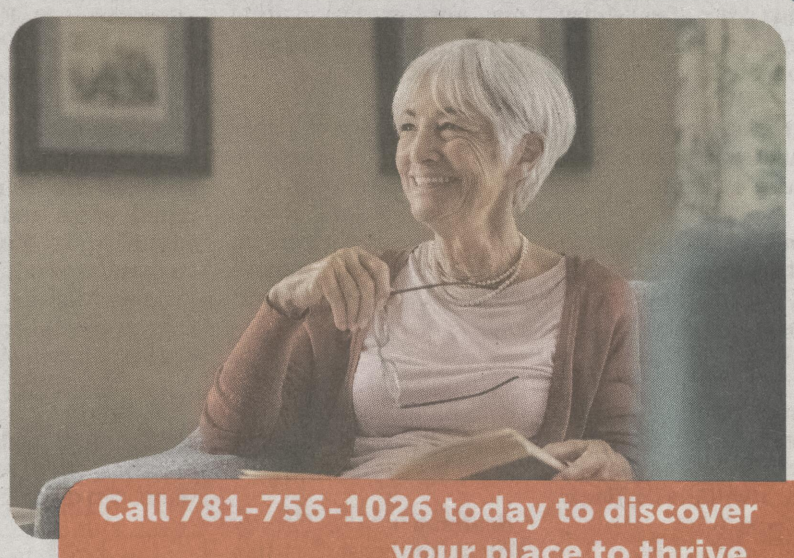

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Home security to-dos

(BPT) - As temperatures have risen and summer has arrived, the anticipation of vacation has filled the air. Whether you're planning a local getaway or an international adventure this summer, ensuring your peace of mind before departure is crucial.

To help you with this, here are some tips to keep your home protected while you're away.

Install a home security system. Few things offer the same peace of mind as knowing you can stay close to what's important to you while you're away, and when it comes to your home, smart home security products can help. A Ring Alarm Security Kit or Ring camera provides just that - the ability to monitor what's happening in and around your home, even while you're away. Ring Alarm offers affordable, commitment free, DIY home security with real-time alerts to the Ring app when your Alarm is triggered. Ring cameras have built-in motion sensors that can alert you in real-time when motion is detected, and features like Live View and Two-Way Talk allow you to see what's happening on your camera anytime, and have a conversation with anyone on the other end, no matter where you are.

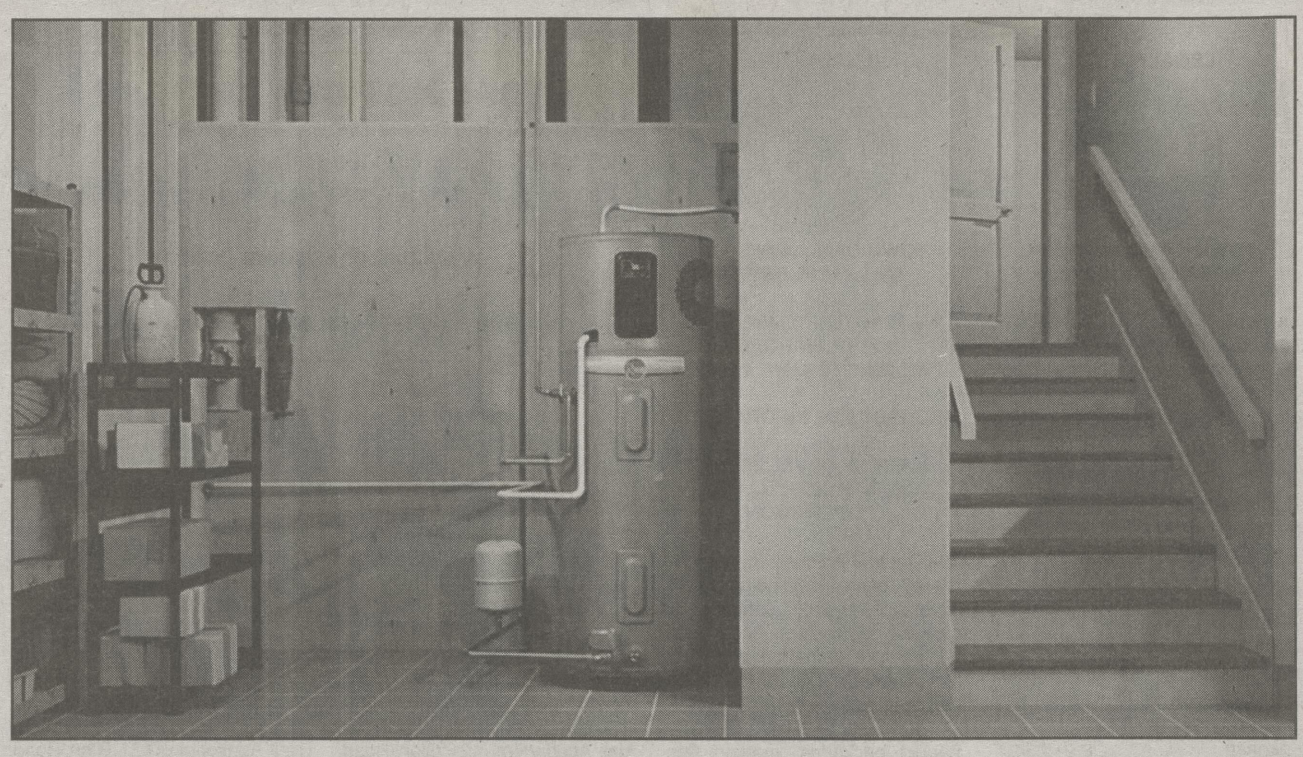
Protect your valuables by storing them securely. Don't forget: visible valuables can be a magnet for unwanted attention, so move them away from windows. Better yet, store valuable items such as important documents, electronics, and jewelry in a designated safe spot at home. Alternatively, you may opt for a safety deposit box to provide an added layer of protection.

Avoid hiding spare keys. Putting a key under the mat or in a false rock is an old trick that needs to be retired. Many homeowners still do this, and it's a bad habit and a major security risk. Investing in a smart lock or leaving a spare key with a trusted neighbor are much safer options.

Take a moment to double-check your appliances. Unplug non-essential appliances and electronic devices to prevent electrical fires or damage during your absence. Not only does this promote safety, but it also helps reduce energy consumption while you're away. For added peace of mind, consider installing smart detectors that can alert you to trouble. With a Ring Alarm Security Kit, you can purchase a separate Ring Alarm Smoke and CO Listener and get alerted via the Ring app anytime your existing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors sound their sirens. Additionally, the Ring Alarm Flood and Freeze Sensor will alert you via the Ring app when water or low temperatures are detected. (Ring Alarm and all Ring Alarm accessories require a subscription for digital arming/disarming and certain other in-app features. For more information on which features require a subscription and subscription pricing, check out ring.com/subscriptions.)

Prepare for packages in advance. With summer sales in full swing, a buildup of packages can inadvertently signal an empty home. Amazon Key In-Garage Delivery is a perfect option to prevent that. In-Garage Delivery is exclusive for Amazon Prime members, and is a convenient and secure way to receive Amazon packages. Drivers scan your package to receive one-time access to deliver inside your garage. No need to give out garage codes or let the driver in yourself. The service works with the majority of smart garages, so you may already have what you need to get started. Just select In-Garage Delivery at checkout and Amazon Key will take care of the rest.

Add smart lighting throughout your home. Install smart lighting systems or timers to mimic your usual patterns of activity at home. This can create the illusion that someone is present, even when the house is vacant, deterring potential intruders. Utilize smart LED bulbs indoors and smart outdoor lighting, and easily customize control settings from your smartphone.



The future of home water heating: How heat pump technology is changing the game

(BPT) - The Department of Energy (DOE) recently released higher energy-efficiency standards for water heaters that will go into effect in 2029. Focusing on decarbonization, the new standards emphasize how highly efficient water heaters, especially heat pump water heaters, will result in lower energy consumption and in turn, potentially save Americans billions in household energy costs.

Ultimately, the new regulation aims to improve performance and increase energy efficiency in the home, while decreasing overall household emissions.

Since Rheem, a leading manufacturer of water heaters, launched its first heat pump water heater in 2009, its technology and efficiency has continued to evolve. This cutting-edge technology relies on moving heat from outside the unit to warm the water within. In fact, some units can be up to four times more efficient than traditional models.

Installing a heat pump water heater can make a home more sustainable, while providing a high-performing, reliable hot water solution.

Tax incentives for energy-efficient home upgrades

Growing in popularity, it is estimated that by 2029, the majority of electric water heaters installed in the U.S. will be heat pump water heaters.

To help encourage adoption of the heat pump water heaters, tax programs such as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) include incentives for homeowners to upgrade and install environmentally friendly equipment and appliances throughout the home. Since going into effect in 2023, the IRA set aside $8.8 billion for consumer rebates on high-efficiency products to cover the cost of the appliance and the associated installation costs.

By taking advantage of the tax credit, homeowners can reduce their tax bill between $2,000 and $3,200, offsetting some of the upfront costs of making energy-efficient home improvements. Specifically, the tax credit for a heat pump water heater is 30% of the unit cost, plus installation up to $2,000. Additional tax credits are available if electric panel upgrades are necessary.

There are also long-term savings to consider. Designed to heat water in a more efficient manner, heat pump water heaters reduce energy usage, which can save consumers hundreds of dollars annually on their utility bills. In the end, these savings add up and can potentially help cover the cost for a heat pump water heater within less than two years of a unit's installation.

Advancing convenience: Smart features and innovations

Heat pump water heaters address a major consumer ask: the ability to have control of home equipment from anywhere. As heat pump technology continues to evolve, manufacturers are integrating smart technology into heat pump water heater systems.

It's now common to include temperature control via a wireless mobile app, leak detection tools, automatic water shut-off and more, making heat pump water heaters among the most intelligent and controllable pieces of technology in a home.

Energy efficiency is a key driver for heat pump technology. The Rheem ProTerra¬Æ Hybrid heat pump water heater allows homeowners to benefit from energy efficiency and participate in available demand response programs. Benefits include monitoring energy usage of the water heater and additional utility savings.

Rheem continues to find ways to innovate on this technology, recently adding to the ProTerra line with a 120V Plug-in model, making it simple for homeowners to replace a gas unit with a heat pump water heater. The plug-in units are easy to install with little to no electrical work, no venting or gas line requirements and Wi-Fi capabilities.

Installing a heat pump water heater can make a home more sustainable and energy efficient, while also providing a customizable and controllable hot water solution.

• 12 ideas for home improvement projects *(From previous page)*

property by using retaining walls to add terraces filled with flowers, herbs, vegetable gardens, or even small fruit trees.

Keep pests at bay. Invest in an outdoor mosquito control service if you're looking for a powerful solution to handle a mosquito problem for outdoor areas. A company like Mosquito Joe can clear your yard of biting bugs and allow you to enjoy your outdoor spaces again - itch-free!

Paint your front door. This is one of the easiest, least expensive ways to give your home a dramatic pop in curb appeal. A company like Five Star Painting can give your front door and home a new, updated look with a new coat of paint, making it stand out.

Install new windows. Windows can set the tone for your home's aesthetic and enhance your living space's comfort. Choosing the right window for your home comes down to thinking about where you live, where the window would go, and your goals. Glass Doctor offers homeowners full-service window repair, replacement and installation.

Need help with any of these projects? Neighborly's trusted network of local home service brands is dedicated to connecting you with reliable and skilled professionals in your area. When it comes to repairing, maintaining or enhancing your home, Neighborly is here to give your home the makeover it deserves. Visit neighborly.com or download the Neighborly App today to explore their services and connect with a local Neighborly pro.

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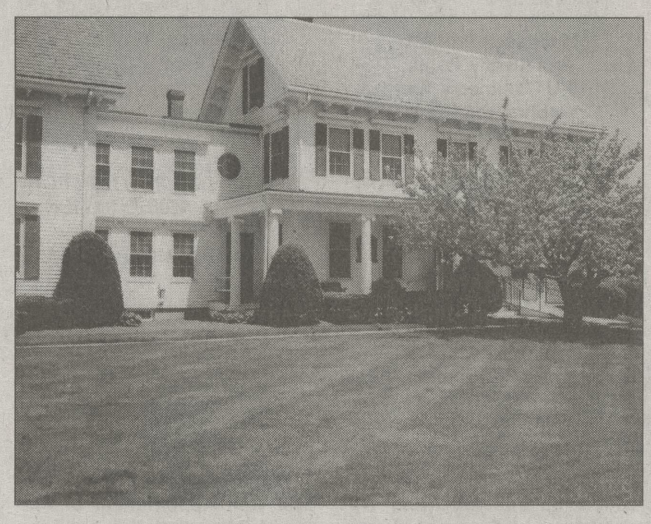

THE FULLER HOUSE of Stoneham 32 Franklin Street Stoneham, MA 02180 781-438-0580 www.FullerHouseofStoneham.com

I am writing to you on the behalf of The Fuller House of Stoneham, a 501 C 3 non profit organization, and our Charitable Campaign. We continue to thrive for over 100 years of continuous quality care to our senior citizens. What began in the early 1900's as a family's bequest of their home and substantial endowment with the vision to provide for the elderly population has blossomed into one of the finest small Rest Homes in New England.

We extend our request to area community members, businesses and families to become a part of the movement to support the Fuller family's mission to serve aging residents. A tax deductible charitable contribution can be made as a one time or recurring donation, as a memorial with a passing of a loved one or within estate planning.

Our quaint Bed and Breakfast style private bedroom facility is beautifully landscaped and maintained offering 24 hour care. Our affordable rates include three daily home cooked meals and snacks, medication management, assistance with ADL's (daily tasks), activities and additional amenities. The committed staff consistently goes above and beyond to ensure all the residents are well cared for; we truly are a family. Our qualified Staff and Board of Directors are committed to the ongoing success of The Fuller House; a unique alternative to large corporate facilities.

The Fuller House is a private pay facility and strives to continue to offer affordable and modest monthly rates. We also work closely with the Veteran Affairs and PACE programs for families who need financial assistance. 100 % of the donations received will be used for the residents and assist in maintaining the quality services that we offer and ensure that the mission to care for our elderly continues for many more years to come. I am sure the Fullers would be quite pleased and proud to see that their vision helped so many and remains so strong and vital.

Become a part of our continuing history; donate now and make a difference by giving to The Fuller House Futures Fund. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be submitted to The Fuller House located at 32 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180. Tours are always welcomed.

Warm Regards, Judy Gallucci O'Brien, Executive Director James Corso, Board of Director President

The Fuller House of Stoneham
32 Franklin Street
Stoneham, MA 02180
781-438-0580
www.FullerHouseofStoneham.com

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DAILY TOURS AVAILABLE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Room 9 on Wednesday, September 11 2024 at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

CASE # 10-24
21A CONCORD STREET
MAP 77 PARCEL 11M
APPLICANT:
IBEW LOCAL 103

REQUEST: To acquire a Special Permit Section 3.5.12 to allow a Commercial / Trade school use

To acquire a Variance Section 5.3.1 to allow encroachment into setback requirement.

240868 8/21,28/24

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF
COMMUNITY MEETING

Please join Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. for a Community Outreach Meeting as we share our plans for a proposed Marijuana Establishment. The proposed Adult-Use Marijuana Retailer is anticipated to be located at 2212 Main St, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

In this meeting, we will discuss security, diversion prevention, community involvement and planning, and general operating information for the proposed facility. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

WHO: CURALEAF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

WHAT: Community OUTREACH meeting to discuss A proposed ADULT-USE Marijuana RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AT 6:30PM

WHERE: HILTON GARDEN INN TEWKSBURY
4 HIGHWOOD DR
TEWKSBURY, MA 01876

240904 8/29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

WILMINGTON TOWN HALL
121 GLEN ROAD
WILMINGTON, MA 01887

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

ICE RINK DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION

The Town of Wilmington, is seeking information describing how a private or nonprofit entity would propose to develop, construct, and operate an ice rink and other recreational facilities on town property.

Sealed packages, marked "Ice Rink Development, Construction, and Operation" on the envelope, will be received at the **Office of the Town Manager**, Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887 until, **Monday, September 30, 2024, at 10 AM.**

Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Wilmington Purchasing Department website: https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/purchasing-department. Proposals may not be submitted via email.

The Town of Wilmington reserves the right to reject the bid or any part thereof deemed not to be in the interest of the Town of Wilmington. The Town shall not be responsible for bids arriving late due to couriers, deliveries to wrong locations, express mailing services, delays related to the processing of mail requests, or any other reason. Postmarks will not be considered.

For further questions concerning this Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing and emailed to TDonahue@WilmingtonMA.Gov.

R. Eric Slagle
Town Manager

240900 8//29/24

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website.

To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

www.homenewshere.com
OR
masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 10, 2024 at 8:20 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA for a Sign Special Permit #24-05, renderings prepared by Sousa Signs, 225 East Industrial Park Dr., Manchester, NH 03109. The application is for the installation of a freestanding sign "Red Thread", directional signs exceeding the allowed height and size, and an additional freestanding sign exceeding the allowed square footage. Said property is located at 100-110 Fordham Road and shown on Assessor's Map 91 Parcel 121.

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning & Conservation Department and may be inspected during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated.

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board

240877 8/22,29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA for a Parking Relief Special Permit #24-02 and Site Plan Review Waiver #24-05, plan entitled, "Layout & Materials Plan"; dated July 2, 2024, prepared by Timothy J. Williams, P.E., Allen & Major Associates, Inc., 100 Commerce Way, Suite 5, Woburn, MA 01801. The application is for the allowance of 81 parking spaces when 116 parking spaces are required for the tenant's industrial/warehouse and office use. Said property is located at 3 Lopez Road and shown on Assessor's Map 77 Parcel 11G.

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning & Conservation Department and may be inspected during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated.

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board

240879 8/22,29/24

New jury trial set for Dec. 5 in Kratman case

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

TEWKSBURY — On Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, Tewksbury Select Board Mark Kratman appeared via Zoom before a judge in the Woburn District Court regarding his Nov. 11, 2019 OUI arrest.

According to court documents, a virtual court session was held to review the status of this case, which has experienced multiple continuances and delays over the past five years.

The most recent jury trial date was scheduled for Nov. 2, 2023, but was removed from jury trial status due to an emergency hospitalization for Kratman.

Since the November 2023 continuance, there has been three separate court dates to review the health status of Kratman with regards to his capability to stand trial, this includes his most recent virtual appearance on Aug. 5, 2024.

During this time frame, Kratman has continued his duties as a Select Board member by making multiple public appearances, including speaking at the 2024 annual Town Meeting, as well as organizing and attending the Tewksbbury 2024 Fourth of July event.

Court documents from the Aug. 5 virtual court session show that a new jury trial has been set to begin on Dec. 10, 2024.

Allegedly, this is Kratman's third offense of operating under the influence. He has been charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle while Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Marked Lanes Violation.

In the State of Massachusetts, a third offense OUI is considered a felony and carries a mandatory minimum jail sentence of six months to two-and-a-half years, with no parole eligibility for at least 150 days, and a driver's license suspension of eight years.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P4083EA

Estate of:
Anne Francis Barberian
Also known as:
Anne F. Barberian
Date of Death: 02/26/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Eric Thomas Barberian** of **Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Eric Thomas Barberian** of **Wilmington MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/29/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 21, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

240892 8/29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P4439EA

Estate of:
Nancy W. Bolton
Also known as:
Nancy Winnifred Bolton
Date of Death: 07/14/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Johanna B. Lynch** of **Medford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Johanna B. Lynch** of **Medford MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 21, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

240902 8/29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 10, 2024 at 8:25 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA for a Site Plan Review #24-15, Stormwater Management Permit #24-14, and Parking Relief Special Permit #24-03, plan entitled, "Site Renovations for IBEW Local 103, 21A Concord Street – Wilmington, MA"; dated August 12, 2024, prepared by Brian P. Dundon, P.E., and Matthew Lowry, P.L.S., RJO'Connell & Associates, Inc., 80 Montvale Avenue, Suite 201, Stoneham, MA 02180. The application is for the installation of a concrete pad for HVAC units, stormwater management, utilities, and the reconfiguration of the existing parking lot for the renovation of the existing building for a trade school and office use. The proposal is for 52 parking spaces on site and 60 parking spaces off site when 79 spaces are required. Said property is located at 21A Concord Street and shown on Assessor's Map 77 Parcel 11M.

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning & Conservation Department and may be inspected during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board

240876 8/22,29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 10, 2024 at 8:10 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA for a Site Plan Review #24-14 and Stormwater Management Permit #24-13, plan entitled, "Amazon.com Services LLC, Electronic Vehicle Charger Installation, DAS8 Delivery Station, 110 Fordham Road, Wilmington, MA 01887"; dated July 26, 2024, prepared by Karlis Skulte, P.E., Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., 10300 Alliance Road, Suite 300, Cincinnati, OH 45242. The application is for the installation of 195 electric vehicle chargers with associated electrical work and concrete pads. Said property is located at 100-110 Fordham Road and shown on Assessor's Map 91 Parcel 121.

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning & Conservation Department and may be inspected during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated.

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board

240878 8/22,29/24

Please Recycle

Blood Drive in Tewksbury happening this Saturday

BLOOD SHORTAGE

Blood donors needed now

American Red Cross

Tewksbury Community Blood Drive

Masonic Lodge
70 Victor Drive

Saturday, August 27th 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Enter sponsor code: Tewksbury
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

USE & SOLAR SPECIAL PERMIT, SITE PLAN REVIEW, LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **September 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by **Sterling Capital LLC** for a Site Plan Review pursuant to Section 3.6 and Special Permits under Section 3.5 and 7.4 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw, as well as a Land Disturbance Permit pursuant to Chapter 19 of the General Bylaw to raze the existing single family home and expand the adjacent electric and hybrid vehicle dealership operations shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 611 Main Street, Assessor's Map 34, Lot 15, zoned General Business.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman

240839 8/22,29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Ground Lease of Municipal Real Estate For Wireless Communications Facilities

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30B, § 16, the Town of Tewksbury is soliciting sealed proposals for a ground lease for a portion of Town-owned land located at 999 Whipple Road, Tax Map 30, Lot 26, for the purpose of owning, permitting, erecting, operating, and maintaining one wireless communications tower facility and related equipment for a term of up to twenty (20) years, with the initial term of ten (10) years, plus two (2), five year renewal terms that auto renew by mutual consent.

An RFP Package containing information relative to the submission requirements is available at the Town Manager's office located at 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

Hours are Monday thru Friday, from 7 :30 AM to 4:30 PM, or by calling 978-640- 4300.

Proposals must be submitted by September 27, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

240862 8/22,29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI24P4495EA

Estate of: Andrew W. Hunt
Date of Death: 09/17/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kimberly A. Alley** of **Boston MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Pamela B. Pardoe** of **Lexington MA** be appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **With Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 21, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

240899 8/29/24

EPA announces $1.3M in grants to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools, childcare facilities

BOSTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced $26 million in funding, including $1,285,000 allotted for Massachusetts, to protect children from lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. This grant funding will be used to reduce lead exposure where children learn and play while advancing the goals of the Biden-Harris Administration's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan.

"Every person, every child, deserves safe and clean drinking water. As students, staff, and teachers start returning to classrooms across New England, no one should have to worry whether the water their loved one drinks at school or daycare is safe," said EPA Regional Administrator David W. Cash. "This funding for testing water taps at schools and childcare facilities will help ensure that every child in Massachusetts can learn and grow in an environment free from the dangers of lead exposure. Coupled with the historic $15 billion investments under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to identify and replace lead pipes, we're working together with our partners to protect the health of our communities and to ensure a future for all of our children that is safe and lead-free."

"Every kid in Massachusetts deserves access to clean, safe water, and thanks to this investment from the Biden-Harris Administration, we're one step closer to making that a reality. I won't stop fighting to bring home more federal investments to strengthen our water infrastructure and protect families in the Commonwealth," said U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren.

"To ensure our kids get to the front of the class, we need to make sure our schools and childcare facilities are free from toxic substances like lead," said U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey. "Our children deserve safe, lead-free drinking water to power and protect their brains and help them thrive."

"We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. There is absolutely no reason our kids should be drinking water that could potentially expose them to lead poisoning," said U.S. Representative Jim McGovern. "I am thankful that the Biden-Harris Administration and the EPA take their role in protecting our children seriously. The grants announced today will ensure we can properly address lead pipes throughout the Commonwealth so that we can rest easier at night knowing our kids are drinking clean, safe water in the places they learn."

"In our world-class Commonwealth, it's unthinkable that children are subject to harmful drinking water at their schools and daycare centers. The Biden-Harris administration knows there is nothing more important than the health of our kids, and they are delivering on their promises to invest in a healthier and stronger America. I'm proud to join the Massachusetts delegation in welcoming this nearly $1.3 million grant, which will have a direct and positive impact on our kids' wellbeing," said U.S. Representative Seth Moulton.

In children, lead can severely harm mental and physical development, slowing down learning, and irreversibly damaging the brain. In adults, lead can cause increased blood pressure, heart disease, decreased kidney function, and cancer.

The funding announced this past week was authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act and is provided to 55 states, the District of Columbia, and participating territories as grants for lead testing and remediation in schools and childcare facilities. Since 2019, the Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing and Reduction Grant has provided over $150 million in funding to conduct testing and removal of lead sources in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities across the United States.

The grant program requires recipients to use the 3Ts — Training, Testing and Taking Action — to reduce lead in drinking water. The 3Ts Program provides valuable resources for states, territories, and Tribes to take action on lead and protect children in early care and educational settings. Learn more about the 3Ts Program.

Learn more about EPA's Voluntary School and Childcare Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program.

EPA is also advancing its Get the Lead Out (GLO) initiative, which is partnering with underserved communities nationwide to provide the technical assistance they need to identify and remove lead service lines. GLO is specifically helping participating communities identify lead services lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding to get the lead out. Communities seeking to access GLO Initiative resources can request assistance by completing the WaterTA request form on EPA's WaterTA website.

Background

The Biden-Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dedicated an unprecedented $15 billion to removing lead from drinking water. This funding can be used to deliver on the White House's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan by encouraging federal, state, and local governments to use every tool to deliver clean drinking water, replace lead pipes, and remediate lead paint. It is especially critical to make improvements to places where children spend significant time such as schools, childcare centers, family childcare centers, preschools, and Head Start programs.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law builds on successful programs like the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act's Grant Programs to bring more benefits to communities across the country.

Pantry organizers offer pet supplies when available

PET FROM PAGE 1

port. And the program is open to anyone who needs temporary assistance feeding and caring for their pet. Buckley said this partnership will help streamline the work at the TCP.

Pet owners in need can fill out a request form online, and when the requested items are ready, arrangements will be made to have them delivered to the person's home. The program runs on the honor system and all inquiries are confidential.

Additionally, pantry organizers offer pet supplies when available. For example, items might include cat litter, crates, puppy gates, and grooming products. The program currently serves Wilmington, Billerica, Woburn, Burlington, Reading, North Reading, and now Tewksbury. Monetary donations are welcomed as well as unopened, unexpired, nonprescription pet food. They also accept new pet toys and gently used harnesses, but cannot accept beds or crates at this time.

Supplies are delivered to applicants by volunteers and Whalen-Dunn said the group also has volunteers who can pick up donations from your home.

Buckley sees it as a win for community members and their pets.

"The program makes it easier for our clients to get what they need to keep all members of their families — both two-legged and four — healthier and happier."

Donations for the pantry may be dropped off at The Barkery on Main Street in Tewksbury, or at Empower on Haven in Reading. The group also maintains Amazon and Chewy wish lists for easy online ordering.

To fill out a confidential request form, or to make a donation of items, money, or to volunteeme as volunteer, visit *https://www.communities.rescueallies.com/wilmington*

Find-It Quick
HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

New school building could include OT and PT spaces

MSBA FROM PAGE 1

Some of the examples he gave of alternate spaces were occupational therapy, physical therapy, and special education spaces. The new building would have new machinery such as boilers. He mentioned that the schools are vintage and space is tight.

While he acknowledged the declining enrollment, he also shared the limitations of the current space. For example, in some cases reading instruction takes place in former closets.

Stephen Turner commented that the educational program plan was a tremendous document. He noted how many of the district's students have extra needs such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, and reading or math specialists.

David Ragsdale stated that the spaces they were looking to add to the new building were flexible so that they could use them in different ways, including future uses.

Dr. Jenn Bryson addressed a concern with education changing.

"We're getting better at what we do and at knowing how to meet needs so that all children can meet the same standards," she explained. "We're getting better at breaking down tiered interventions and assessing to know exactly what [students] need."

She went on to say that they can provide incredible support using flexible spaces that they didn't know students needed at the time when the current schools were built.

They voted in favor of accepting the updated educational program.

Brand then asked the committee whether they would agree to support the grade level configuration change in connection with the MSBA requirement that the district be behind the new grade configuration. They voted to adopt the plan as proposed.

The committee also voted unanimously in favor of appointing Christine Murray as the interim director of student support services.

In public comment, a resident and member of the Wildwood School Building Committee agreed that the supported grades pre-k through five option was the best construction option.

The committee is set to meet next on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.

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Classifieds

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First day of a brand new year at school

(KMG Howlett photos)

SELECT FROM PAGE 1

New building reuse committee formed

the committee makeup would be 10 people, which is an even number, but they typically form committees of uneven numbers to reduce split votes.

Bendel initially suggested they remove the board member serving as representative since the committee would make recommendations to the Select Board.

West pointed out that there is a board member on most of their subcommittees, and he expressed interest in being the board member to serve on the committee.

Maselli made an official motion to remove the board member representative. The vote passed in favor of doing so, with one vote against.

Bendel announced that this would be a nine-member committee therefore, made up of all residents and town employees.

Bonnie Smith said on behalf of the Historical Commission that they were excited for the chance to be represented on the committee.

Memos were sent to Joseph Lavino and Scott Neville informing them of their reappointments to the Finance Committee.

Caira asked if the Finance Committee made an appointment for their other vacancy. Slagle replied that his understanding was the committee received two more applicants but decided to appoint neither of them. Bendel also clarified that one of the candidates would instead be recommended for the Economic Development Committee which was their first choice.

The last memo they received was from Pat Giroux on behalf of Wilmington 4th of July Celebration, Inc. requesting to restrict hawkers, pedlers, and transient vendors during Fall Fest. The date was set for Sept. 28 with a rain date of Oct. 5.

The board approved requests to use Rotary Park on Aug. 24 for an ice bucket challenge event, a block party on Harold Avenue on Aug. 25, lighting the town common gold in September in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and a WHS boys soccer fundraising car wash at the municipal parking lot on Sept. 7, 2025.

They also approved a request from Lisa Faretra regarding a disclosure relative to employment with the DPW, the execution of a land damage agreement and right of entry for Wilmington-Woburn Route 38, a hawk & pedle license for Ad's Ice Cream, and a date change for Wilmington Town Business Day from Aug. 19 to Sept. 24.

They unanimously voted to appoint Jacob Gearwar to the Economic Development Committee. West added that he met with Gearwar and thought he was a great candidate.

Caira named his candidate for the Economic Development Committee to be Joe Maselli, but withdrew his motion when a question of appropriate process and transparency came up.

In public comment, Joe Jackson commented that the Building Reuse Committee could use as many people as possible and they wouldn't be making binding votes.

Kevin MacDonald asked if there were town warrants for expenditures regarding extra costs of change orders. Bendel replied that he didn't have the answer, but MacDonald could ask the town hall staff during the day and get a quicker answer. MacDonald again suggested the town make use of an open checkbook where they list every expenditure online.

In announcements, they mentioned the successful Police Beach Day and National Night Out. West also asked if DPW Director Jamie Magaldi could return to re-explain the white goods recycling price change.

The Salute to Service that night went out to Kenneth Kane, who served in the Air and Space Unit and earned medals including an air medal, air and space outstanding unit award, and orange heart medal. Bendel also shared that Kane passed away earlier in the year.

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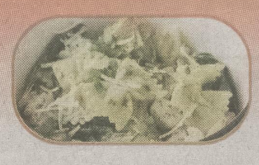
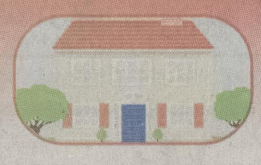
Movie Review: 'Blink Twice' Page B2

Recipe: Creamy Pesto Chicken Pasta Page B2

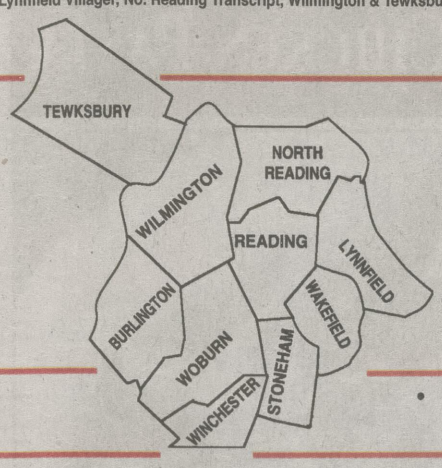


Real Estate Transfers Page B3



MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times – Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield), Lynnfield Villager, No. Reading Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 29, 2024 B1



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Money will be used to combat effects of climate change...

Stoneham, Reading receive $2.87M influx of MVP grant funding

By PATRICK BLAIS

Promised some $2.87 million in state funding, officials in Stoneham and Reading will get their chance to combat extreme weather by advancing proposals to restore wetland habitats by local neighborhoods and businesses and thereby increase their respective communities' flood storage capacities.

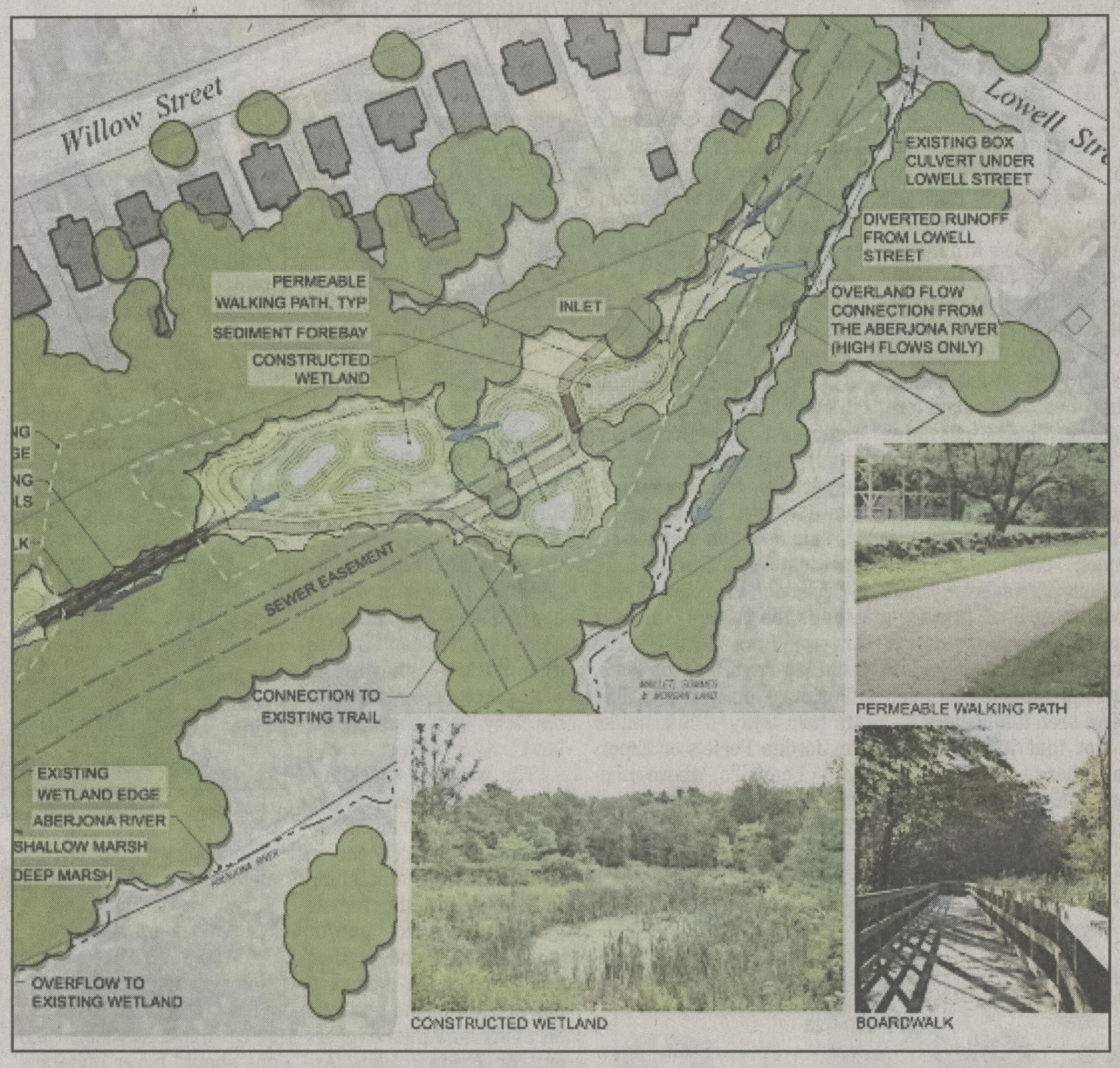
At the outset of this month, Governor Maura Healey, joined by the state's top environmental agency manager and other non-profit organization partners, announced that both Middlesex East communities would be receiving a portion of the $12 million in funding set aside for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program grants in FY'25.

Stoneham is set to receive some $2.35 million in such funds over the next two years, including $665,700 this year to finalize plans for a wetlands restoration project by the community's new $217 million high school campus. The second round of MVP funding comes after the state allocated a $108,700 planning grant to begin exploring potential solutions to flooding in several neighborhoods clustered around Franklin Street by Stoneham High School (SHS) and the town's Colonial Park Elementary School by the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

"Extreme weather and frequent flooding continue to increase vulnerability in Stoneham and throughout the region as a result of climate change," remarked Erin Wortman, Stoneham's Director of Planning & Community Development, upon learning that the town would receive additional MVP monies. "We are thankful to the MVP Program for this $2,346,126 grant that allows us to implement a multi-year planning process. The funding will be used to manage stormwater flooding, improve wildlife habitat, and protect drinking water quality while expanding an accessible trail system for residents and visitors to enjoy."

Meanwhile, the neighboring Town of Reading, hoping to duplicate the success of a major $5 million habitat restoration effort at its sprawling Maillet, Sommes and Morgan Conservation Area that was partially funded by MVP program funds in 2022, is in line to receive another $522,500 to identify additional ways to alleviate flooding by the Ipswich and Aberjona River watersheds.

• GRANT TO B-3



READING - Thanks to a fresh influx of MVP funding, Reading hopes to expand upon the improvements recently made at the community's Maillet Sommes Morgan Conservation area. Pictured above is an image detailing the previous project's scope of work. (Courtesy Photos)

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NOVEMBER 10, 2024
2:00PM

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Style over logic in great-looking but vexing 'Blink Twice'

EYE CATCHING - Justin Naomi Ackie, left, and Alia Shawka in a scene from "Blink Twice" directed by Zoë Kravitz's and released by Amazon/MGM Studios. (Carlos Somonte/Amazon-MGM via AP)

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

"Love means never having to say you're sorry," somebody once famously said in the movies. It made utterly no sense in 1970, but even less so now. In recent decades, the apology has become all the rage.

So at the beginning of Zoë Kravitz's "Blink Twice," when her tech-mogul protagonist, Slater King, sits on a TV couch and says "I'm sorry" for some unexplained transgression, well, it's a familiar scene. Pick your offender, pick your year: Famous person issues ritual apology, gets off grid for a bit (in this case, a remote island with chickens) and returns, presumably forgiven. We've seen it all before.

Not that it isn't fun to watch here — especially because Channing Tatum is so delightfully, charmingly smarmy in the role. "Blink Twice" is a big swing for him as an actor and even a bigger one for Kravitz, his life partner, as director and co-writer of this stylish, ambitious, buzzy film that seems to aspire to be a gender-themed "Get Out," or a #MeToo-era thriller with echoes of "Promising Young Woman."

And Kravitz almost pulls it off. With the help of a terrific cast, she offers strikingly confident, brashly entertaining filmmaking, until everything seems to break down in a mess of porous storytelling. It's not the sudden intrusion of gore that's the issue — this is a horror film, duh. It's the sudden departure of logic. Perhaps you won't be able to turn away — but, unlike in Jordan Peele's or Emerald Fennell's above-mentioned films, you won't necessarily be able to explain what you saw, either.

But it sure is crackling fun, until it isn't — which is a pretty apt way to describe the experience that Frida (Naomi Ackie, excellent) has. A cocktail waitress who designs nail art, Frida lives in a rundown apartment with roommate Jess (Alia Shawkat). When the two get a waitressing gig at a fundraiser, they cleverly plot to change into slinky dresses midway so they can mingle with wealthy guests.

Turns out, it's a fundraiser for Slater's firm, and when Frida trips, it's the billionaire himself who helps her up. He introduces her to his friends, and soon, Frida and Jess can't believe their luck — they're on Slater's plane, en route to his very own Fantasy Island.

The water is sparkling. The champagne is, too. Frida and Jess' closets are filled with resort wear in stylish white, matching those given the other female guests: the flaky and/or stoned Camilla and Heather, and hard-nosed, sharp-elbowed Sarah, who has eyes on Slater and thus daggers out for Frida. (Adria Arjona's Sarah is easily the most compelling performance of the movie.)

The food, prepared by Slater's buddy Cody (Simon Rex), is impeccable. (His other pals are played by Christian Slater, Haley Joel Osment and Levon Hawke, and his therapist by Kyle MacLachlan.) Alcohol is plentiful, sheets are soft, and there's drugs, too — to be used "with intention," according to Slater, whatever that means. Days are long, nights are longer, and soon nobody knows what day it is anyway.

But why is that, exactly? Well, all phones were confiscated upon arrival by Stacy, Slater's ditzy assistant — Geena Davis, a hoot but somewhat underused (and one should never underuse Geena Davis). But something deeper seems at play. We're trying to avoid spoilers, but as Jess tells Frida, "There is something wrong with this place."

That would be easy enough to figure out just by looking at the oddly terrifying faces of the resort workers (shades of "Get Out") who are surely hiding something. Also: why does Frida have dirt under her fingernails? And what happened to a red stain on her dress? Weird stuff is happening.

But Frida, still, is angry that Jess is balking. They're on a gorgeous island, and someone important is courting her. "For the first time in my life I'm here and I'm not invisible, so please," she admonishes her friend.

And so the pretense continues — that pretense, familiar in the Instagram era, of always having a good time. "Are you having a good time?" Slater asks more than once. "Yes!" says Frida, less convincingly as time goes on.

And when everything has gone to utter bloody, gory chaos, someone still suggests, eerily: "There's a version of this where we're all having a good time."

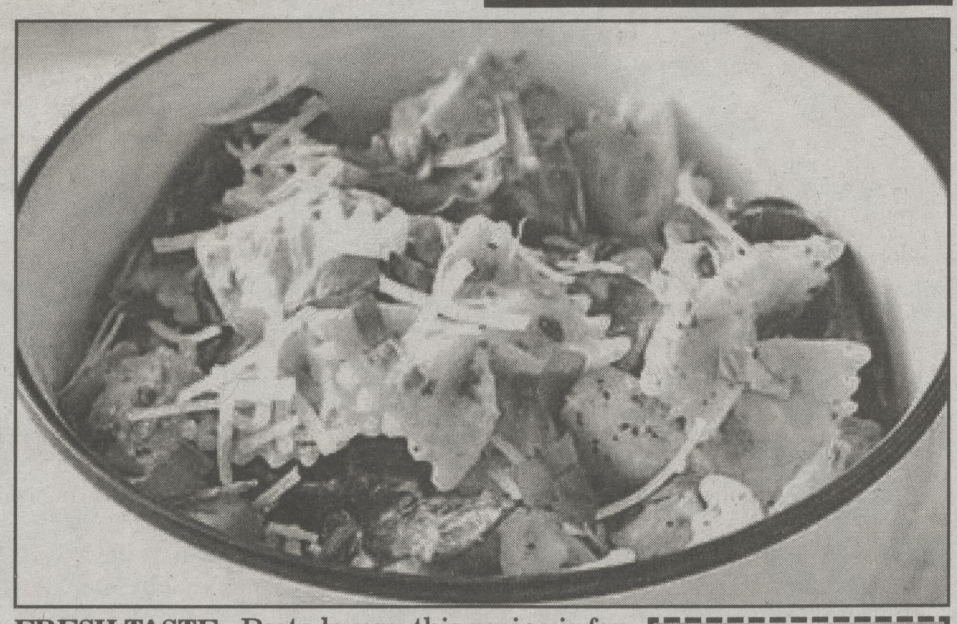
There's a deeper undercurrent here. Women, Kravitz has posited, are always expected to smile, play the game, pretend they're having a good time — and, she says, to "forget" the bad stuff. And so forgetting is a prominent element in her film, one we won't spoil.

In any case, there's indeed a version of Kravitz's film in which we're all having a great time — most of it, actually. She just needs to stick the landing. We'll all be eager to see what comes next.

"Blink Twice," an Amazon/MGM release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for strong violent content, sexual assault, drug use and language throughout, and some sexual references." Running time: 103 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

Creamy Pesto Chicken Pasta



FRESH TASTE - Pesto lovers, this recipe is for you! This pasta dish is loaded with a creamy pesto sauce, fresh spinach and flavor-packed chicken for an easy weeknight meal the whole family will love.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 package (16 oz) boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into
- 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 1/2 cups Progresso™ reduced sodium chicken broth (from 32-oz container)
- 8 oz uncooked farfalle (bow-tie) pasta (about 3 cups)
- 4 oz (half of 8-oz package) cream cheese, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup refrigerated basil pesto (from 7-oz container)
- 1 package (8 oz) fresh spinach, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese

STEPS

1. In a 5- to 5 1/2-quart Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat; season chicken with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cook chicken in oil 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is no longer pink. With slotted spoon, transfer to plate, and keep warm.

2. Add chicken broth and pasta to Dutch oven; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 12 to 14 minutes, stirring occasionally, until pasta is al dente and most of liquid is absorbed.

3. Add cream cheese and pesto, stirring frequently, until cheese is melted. Stir in chicken; cook 1 to 2 minutes, stirring occasionally, until chicken is heated through.

4. Gradually stir in spinach until starting to wilt. Just before serving, garnish with basil and Parmesan cheese.

EXPERT TIPS

- A sprinkle of crushed red pepper adds a nice finish and a bit of heat to this dish.

- We like the fresh flavor of refrigerated basil pesto, which is sold in the refrigerated aisle of the grocery store.

RMLD Reading Municipal Light Department
RELIABLE POWER

LEGAL NOTICE

IFP 2024-23

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 56D, the Reading Municipal Light Department (or "RMLD") seeks proposals for the purchase of the following:

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Sealed proposals shall be submitted to the Reading Municipal Light Department, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867, ATTN: Purchasing Department, no later than **11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.** Proposals will then be opened and unless obviously non-responsive, read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV Room. *Late proposals will not be accepted.*

Proposal documents may be obtained via email request to Maureen Sullivan at msullivan@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Maureen Sullivan at 781-942-6441.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the RMLD for a sum not less than 5% of the total amount of the proposal. In lieu of a check, a bid/proposal bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid, unless otherwise stated. The bid/proposal bond must be from a corporate surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conditioned that the proposer will pay the RMLD, as liquidated damages, the amount specified in the bond unless the proposer enters into a contract in accordance with the proposal. If the proposer fails to enter into the contract or furnish any required bonds, insurance documents, or other required documents within ten (10) days from the date on which the proposer is notified that the proposal has been accepted, the amount of the check or bid/proposal bond shall be forfeited to the RMLD.

RMLD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive deviations and informalities, modify specifications, negotiate price and contract terms, purchase items from multiple vendors, accept any proposal, and otherwise award the contract as RMLD deems to be in its best interest, as determined by RMLD in its sole discretion. RMLD also reserves the right to purchase the equipment from a statewide contract or other procurement options authorized by G.L. c. 30B.

Proposals shall remain valid and binding for sixty (60) days, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, following the submission deadline. No agreement shall be valid or binding unless duly executed by RMLD or RMLD issues a purchase order signed by an authorized representative of the RMLD.

RMLD will make reasonable efforts to review and process proposals promptly. However, RMLD shall not be liable for any delays in acting on a proposal.

Maya Jacob is the Lynnfield Art Guild's featured artist in September and October

The Lynnfield Art Guild (LAG) is proud to announce that local artist Maya Jacob is the featured artist for two months from September 1 – October 31, 2024, on LAG's website www.lynnfieldarts.org. You can see over 40 of her paintings at the Guild's website and can go directly to her work at www.lynnfieldarts.org/maya-jacob/. After October 31st the art will still be available to view on the website under Featured Artists.

The artist says: "I have been sketching since I was a little girl and am continuing to do so. Drawing and painting are an integral part of my life." She is never without a small sketchbook in which she regularly captures her daily experiences. Maya's professional training in graphic arts was her entry into a lengthy career in Advertising. She prefers graphite drawing, watercolor and acrylic mediums and is fluent in all three. The artist is fortunate to have studied with instructors who have encouraged and influenced her, including V. S. Haldankar, Bill Velmure, Bill Commerford, Bill Devaney, Steve Greco and Maureen Albano.

A long-time member of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where she frequently paints and draws, Maya also has been an active member of the Lynnfield Art Guild for many years, serving in several positions on the Board.

The artist says, "For those who do know me and for those who do not, I am a people person; hence you will see a lot of them in my paintings. I am nostalgic and like to capture scenes from India, often from photographs my husband and I have taken over the years. Color is my muse."

"OUT TO SEA" by MAYA JACOB

Originally from India, Maya and her late husband T.M. came to the US via London, England, and Toronto, Canada, arriving in Wakefield, MA in 1971. They are the parents of three children and five grandchildren.

Some of the artist's paintings are available for sale. She may be contacted at mayamjacob@hotmail.com. The Guild is proud to showcase Maya Jacob's work and invites the public to check out its website www.lynnfieldarts.org. Visit the Guild's Facebook and Instagram pages (Lynnfieldarts) to learn more about the premier arts organization in Lynnfield.

Submitted by: Beth Aaronson 781-334-4333

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• Real Estate Transfers •

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245 Cambridge St #304 was sold to Pu, Yu and Huang, Yingyi by Bhamre, Mahesh and Khairnar, Neha for $618,000 on 08/09/24

LYNNFIELD

4 Hawkes Ln was sold to Calef, Benjamin M and Church, Mackenzie B by Luo, Yaping and Sun, Dawei for $925,000 on 08/05/24

5 Melch Rd was sold to Daddario, Mark and Forero, Alessandra by Dinapoli Re Prop Inc for $910,000 on 08/09/24

NORTH READING

8 Foley Dr was sold to Cunsolo, Vincenzo and Cunsolo, Maria E by Smith Ft and Smith Jr, Donald H for $800,000 on 08/09/24

4 Greenbriar Dr #207 was sold to Haley, Edmund J and Haley, Jo-Anna by Gilmartin, Anthony J and Gilmartin, Bridget R for $350,000 on 08/09/24

280 Martins Lndg #212 was sold to Soghigian Jr, Haig M and Soghigian, Patricia D by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $550,000 on 08/08/24

READING

1 Charles St #I was sold to Lewis, Grazline by Talbot, Ruth M and Talbot, Ryan J for $560,000 on 08/05/24

1342 Main St was sold to 1342 Main Street LLC by Linear RETail Reading 2 for $5,600,000 on 08/08/24

16 Temple St was sold to Pennachio, Kathryn and Yang, Kevin by Hajjaj, Rima A for $779,000 on 08/09/24

30 White Oaks Ln #30 was sold to Cagney RET and Philip, Joseph by Johnson Woods Realty Cor for $1,392,500 on 08/06/24

STONEHAM

21 Alden Ave was sold to Vakalfotis, Constantinos and Vakalfotis, Thomas by Diro Rt and Highgas 3rd, Willliam for $929,900 on 08/08/24

9 Steele St was sold to Sanco Builders LLC by 91 Glenn Street LLC for $1,200,000 on 08/09/24

4 Sunrise Ave was sold to Rios, Ronal E and Rios, Janie D by 4 Sunrise Avenue Rt and Mccarthy, Diane G for $650,000 on 08/09/24

TEWKSBURY

20 Carter St was sold to 20 Boston North Rlty LLC by Carter Street Rt and Xarras, James L for $8,000,000 on 08/07/24

71 John St was sold to 71 John Street Rt and Lamarca, Charles J by Walsh John P Est and Asselin, Erin W for $567,000 on 08/07/24

1215 Main St #116 was sold to Goode Hair Studio LLC by Chk Rt and Kalarites, James C for $100,000 on 08/05/24

1830 Main St #5 was sold to Pelissier, Claudette by Stackhouse, Michael and Babcock, Chelsie for $435,000 on 08/05/24

30 Northgate Rd was sold to Kelly Jr, Stephen M by Mahoney, Kevin R and Sardella, Lauren for $685,000 on 08/08/24

37 Quail Run #37 was sold to Christie, Michaela F by Thompson Terryann Est and Horan, Tracey E for $470,000 on 08/06/24

1 Radcliff Rd was sold to Sl Tewksbury Owner LLC by Kcp Nnn Ii Leasehold 1 L for $35,128,573 on 08/09/24

9 S Amos St was sold to Fiset, Corilynn and Fiset, Jason by W E Smith Sr Testamentar and Smith Jr, William E for $475,000 on 08/05/24

1465 Shawsheen St was sold to Tran, Lam T and Phan, Candy M by Diane E Lavalle T and Lavalle, Stephen T for $685,000 on 08/08/24

WAKEFIELD

69 Foundry St #202 was sold to Anderson, Brian M to Mays, Lydia E for $250,800 on 08/05/24

69 Foundry St #212 was sold to Ignacio, Diane by Dinapoli, Paul R for $500,000 on 08/08/24

WILMINGTON

5 Factory Rd was sold to was sold to Monaco, Joseph and Monaco, Samanth by Majewski, Ryan and Majewski, Michelle for $925,000 on 08/07/24

168 Lowell St #29 was sold to Kumar, Ashish and Srivastwa, Harshita by 168 Lowell Street LLC for $714,900 on 08/05/24

685 Main St was sold to 685 Main Street LLC by Richard S Galante Lt and Galante, Alexandra D for $1,750,000 08/09/24

51 Marcia Rd was sold to Oliver, Todd F by Mary Odlum 2024 Lt and Werner, Dianne O for $676,000 on 08/09/24

WINCHESTER

26 Arthur St was sold to Yu, Zhiqi and Wang, Yuechun by Cheung, Catherine H and Chow, Jon for $1,337,500 on 08/07/24

9 Bacon St #9 was sold to Leung, Pater and Yu, Wing C by Clark, Lauri S and Clark, Travis A for $1,199,000 on 08/06/24

7 Conant Rd was sold to #52 was sold to Chau, Calvin and Zheng, Lan by Taber Jr, Lester R and Taber, Doris M for $700,000 on 08/09/24

19 Kenwin Rd was sold to was sold to Tia, Peter M and Zhang, Junchong by Heinold, David W and Heinold, Jerilyn W for $1,150,000 on 08/06/24

25 Marion St was sold to Wall, Kyle and Wall, Ashleyby Volpe, David M and Volpe, Nancy M for $1,875,000 on 08/06/24

18 Sheffield W was sold to Disciullo, Philip J and Disciullo, Michelle M by Donnellan, Mark S for $3,240,000 on 08/09/24

200 Swanton St #404 was sold to Riccio, John and Riccio, Robin by Reigosa Rt and Morello, John T for $254,900 on 08/08/24

11 Taft Dr was sold to 11 Taft Drive LLC by Barrett John G Est and Mcbride, David C for $1,295,000 on 08/08/24

53 Winford Way was sold to Rybo Inc was sold Matthews, Diane L for $935,000 on 08/05/24

4 Wolcott Ter was sold to Haringa, Matthew and Bond, Julia by Victoria A Taylor RET and Taylor, Victoria A for $1,375,000 on 08/08/24

WOBURN

38 Green St was sold to Lynch, Thomas G and Pratt, Neil by Burns, Cameron J and Burns, John E for $875,000 on 08/09/24

32 Hammond Pl was sold to Stegelmann, Mary A by Areve B Alexander RET and Alexander, Areve B for $550,000 on 08/08/24

37 Locust St was sold to Zhou, Jian and Fan, Zhiming by Gurung, Jitu and Gurung, Sumitra for $700,000 on 08/05/24

• GRANT FROM B-1

STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL
PERMEABLE PATH CONNECTING TO STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL
LONG TERM INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT
WOODEN STAIRS
PROPOSED LOW PROFILE BOARDWALK OVER EXISTING INTERMITTENT STREAM
REMOVE BOULDERS TRASH AND DEBRIS AND RESTORE WETLAND
FORMAL STONE ENTRANCE (TYP.)
KAREN DRIVE
KIOSK
LONG TERM INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMEN
VIEWING PLATFORM
CAPPER DARBY DRIVE

STONERHAM - The above image details the Town of Stoneham's plans for restoring wetlands resource areas by the town's high school. (Courtesy Graphic)

The Aberjona River, which runs through neighboring Woburn before feeding into the Mystic River that winds all the way to Boston Harbor, begins as a stream in Reading that flows under Lowell Street right by the Maillet, Sommes and Morgan conservation land. The town, which also maintains a series of recreation and conservation areas by its borders with North Reading and Lynnfield, is being tasked under the latest MVP grant with identifying additional ways to address existing and future flooding by vulnerable populations.

"The projects generated by this grant will protect critical facilities and fragile sites, a top priority to Reading and surrounding Resilient Mystic Collaborative communities," said Reading Town Manager Matt Kraunelis after the grant award was announced on Aug. 1. "We're pleased to continue this long-term work with our surrounding cities and towns and look forward to the innovative solutions to come."

Launched back in 2017, the state's MVP program was created to help cities and towns across Massachusetts prepare for a series of potential weather-related catastrophes that could be brought about by climate change in the coming years and decades.

To date, some $140 million has been distributed to communities and water providers across the state.

Under the original version of the program, hundreds of cities and towns were provided funding and technical assistance to develop "climate resiliency" plans that were tailor-made to respond to community-specific flooding, drought, water quality, and risks to infrastructure that could be brought about by extreme heat and storm events.

In April of 2022, Healey, with the help of the Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) managers who administer the grants, expanded those efforts under an MVP 2.0 program that moved towards the implementation of those original "climate resilience" plans.

In the spring of 2023, under the first year of the revamped program, the state allocated roughly $28.5 million towards 79 individual "MVP Action" plans.

Last month, Healey and EOEEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced that this year's round of funding would include $52.4 million, including $12 million that is being steered towards communities that are situated within the Mystic River watershed.

"The MVP program connects local leaders with state resources to protect our most vulnerable communities from extreme weather," said EOEEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "The Resilient Mystic Collaborative exemplifies regional teamwork, demonstrating how collective efforts can drive climate adaptation. We are proud to fund critical initiatives such as flood management, resilient community centers, and forest health. We're proud to award the most funds in MVP history to such a strong set of projects."

Mystic River Collaborative

Back in 2018, ten communities situated within the 76-square mile Mystic River Watershed joined together to form a collaborative aimed at improving the natural resource area and helping communities restore habitats around wetlands areas to combat climate change.

The resulting non-profit collaborative has since been at the forefront of advising communities like Reading and Stoneham on how to navigate its way through the MVP 2.0 process. Last month, representatives from the organization heralded the state for steering so much money towards those efforts.

"What is extraordinary is that about three quarters of all the funding we've secured are for regional projects," said Mystic River Watershed Association's Julie Wormser after the latest MVP grant awards were announced. "These are critical investments that communities can't accomplish without partnering with their neighbors."

"What our communities are accomplishing together is nothing short of miraculous," also remarked Patrick Herron, Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association. "Extreme weather mocks municipal boundaries. Municipal staff and local nonprofits are pulling together to protect people and infrastructure at the scale of the challenge."

The non-profit collaborative has since its founding helped many Middlesex East communities obtain millions of dollars of state and federal funding for a series of projects including:

• The creation of a fish ladder by Horn Pond in Woburn and the cleaning and the restoration of banks along nearby brooks and streams which are used by American eel and native Alewife and Blueback herring species during their annual spawning season;

• A riverside improvement project in Winchester by Davidson Park;

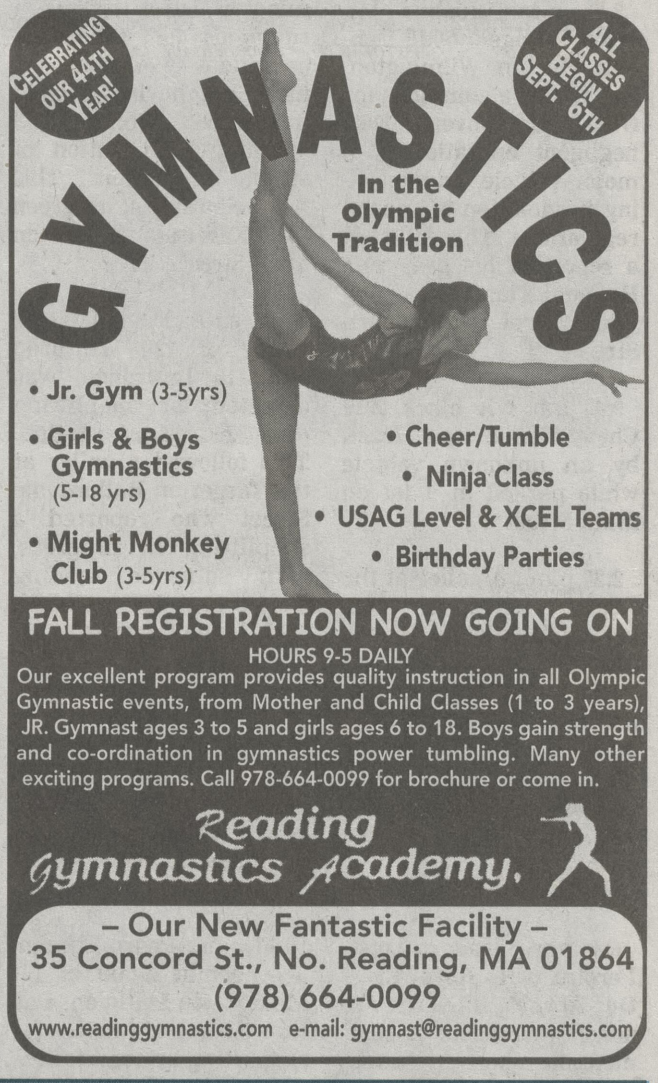
• Woburn's efforts to alleviate flooding by its Four Corners area and the city's West Side by adding stormwater storage capacity by its 20-acre Shaker Glen Conservation Area;

• and Reading's ongoing Maillet, Sommes and Morgan Conservation Area restoration project, where stormwater culverts will be cleaned out and various wetlands pools will be connected together to create excess stormwater storage capacity at the 18-acre site.

In a proposal which in many ways mirrors the ultimate aims of the Maillet, Sommes and Morgan Conservation area project and Woburn's ongoing efforts at its Shaker Glen Conservation area, Stoneham has proposed to use its MVP funding to clean out various trenches that carry stormwater past the local high school and into a wetlands area by Doleful Pond.

The work in Stoneham is proving particularly timely in light of the redevelopment of the community's 26-acre Weiss Farm parcel into a 259-unit apartment complex, which will sit right next to a wetlands area that is discharged into drainage ditches to run into the wetlands area.

Under a project plan developed by Wortman, Stoneham's Conservation Commission and environmental consultants from the Horsley Witten Group, the project will also involve the construction of walking trails and elevated boardwalks across various wetlands systems. The town also hopes to connect those new passive recreation paths to existing trails that connect to the surrounding Middlesex Fells Reservation.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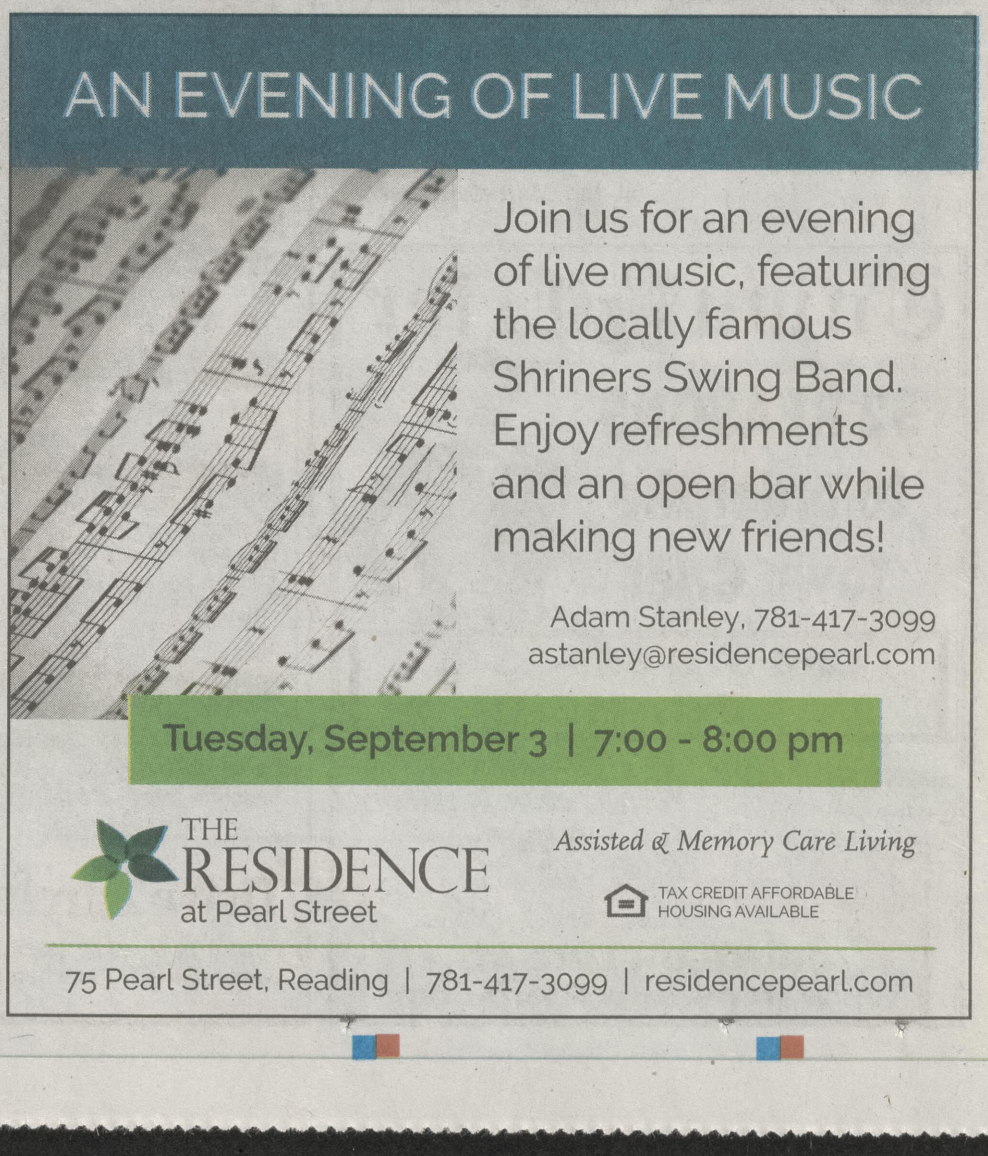
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Tewksbury Police Log

Several shoplifting, drug possession arrests made

Monday, August 19

10:55 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious black SUV parked in the middle of the road at Worthern Place. Police sent. They reported the vehicle was gone on arrival.

3:34 p.m. - Loss Prevention reported two shoplifters in the office at Walmart. Police sent. Junior Calixto-Rodridges, 42, of 30 of Delard St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with larceny under $1,200. Nubia De Oliveira, 40, of 30 Delard St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with larceny under $1,200.

5:27 p.m. - Detectives out with individual possibly with a warrant at Hinckley Road. Michael Moran, 45, of 30 Hinckley Road in Tewksbury, was arrested and charged with fugitive from justice on court warrant, breaking and entering building nighttime for felony, and larceny from building.

8:51 p.m. - A 911 call for a lightning strike to a residence at South Street. Caller reported no flames or smoke but the fire alarm did briefly activate. Police and fire truck sent. No smoke or flames.

Tuesday, August 20

2:57 a.m. - Police checked on a motor vehicle in the parking lot of Cumberland Farms. They cleared the area and the occupant was waiting for the pumps to re-open.

1:02 p.m. - Police checked on a paving company at Marshall Street with no detail. JJB paving spoke to the fireman and they would be done in 10 minutes.

2:53 p.m. - Caller reported a male party taking pictures of her house at Oak Street. Male claimed he was from the insurance company and was refusing to leave. Police sent. Officer spoke the all parties and everything was resolved.

10:30 p.m. - Police stopped a motor vehicle for suspicious activity at Home Depot. Detective filed a report.

Wednesday, August 21

11:35 a.m. - A 911 call from the front desk at Extended Stay America reporting an unruly customer was intoxicated and yelling at the staff. Police sent. They filed a report. That female party was trespassed off the property.

12:40 p.m. - Detectives out at Motel 6 removing an unwanted party from the room. All companies were going to be clear management was going to give that female party some more time to gather her belongings.

4:50 p.m. - Caller reported a male party that was upset Haffner's would not give him free air. Business line caller stated there was a mass law that stated gas stations have to give $2 air for free. Police confirmed this was not a law. Informed male party that he would not be getting free air. All units cleared. Male party left the property. Haffner's did not want him trespassed.

6:16 p.m. - Police out at Motel 6 with a warrant. Adrian Diaz Nivar, 21, of 20 Williard St. in Lawrence, was arrested and charged with unlicensed used operation of motor vehicle.

Thursday, August 22

8:02 a.m. - Caller parked at Motel 6 in a white truck with two suspicious males that did some damage to the fence in the back lot. Caller reported the two males were sitting behind the fence "doing drugs." Police sent. The front desk stated damage was from a past incident and they found no vehicle matching the description.

11:49 a.m. - Call from Loss Prevention reported a male party shoplifted baseball cards at Walmart. Male left the parking lot in a motor vehicle taking a right on Main Street. Police stopped the vehicle. Albert Quartararo, 50, of 137 Salem St. in Reading, was arrested and charged with larceny under $1,200 and unlawful deactivation or removal of theft detection device.

4:44 p.m. - Police flagged down by a male party at Applebees Restaurant. Caller reported a white or hispanic male was very annoying throwing cones in the street and knocking over trash barrels. The male party was just walking back to Woburn. No road hazards left behind in the road.

8:41 p.m. - A 911 caller was going into yards and acting suspicious at South Street. Male party described as a white male, 5'11, skinny pants, and light colored t-shirt. Male party asked for "brown." Police sent. Jack Marlowe, 32, of 3 Callahan Drive in Woburn, was arrested and charged with possess class B drugs and possess class C drugs.

Friday, August 23

3:25 a.m. - Police checked on a motor vehicle in the parking lot of Burger King. They spoke to the owner who was a cleaner for business.

4:01 p.m. - Caller reported a male party was standing in the area yelling at cars at Main Street and Shawsheen Street. Caller stated he was holding a political sign and seemed in distress. Police sent. No issue.

9:31 p.m. - Caller reported a damaged vehicle pulled into the lot at Home Depot. Vehicle was parked in line with the tool rental section. Police sent. Tere Watson, 29, of 4C Railroad St. in Pepperell, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor.

Saturday, August 24

2:25 a.m. - Caller at Vale Street reported she heard a large boom/explosion. No visual confirmation. She believed it could be at the train tracks or Shawsheen Street. Police sent. They checked the area and surrounding streets with nothing showing. All was quiet.

2:58 a.m. - A 911 caller reported she got in her car to investigate the "explosion" that she heard before at Shawsheen Street. There was "opaque steam" coming from one of the tanks. Police off with female to speak with her. Female party believed it was one of the propane tanks. Police checked the area and everything appeared normal.

5:15 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a motor vehicle crossing over the yellow line at Enterprise Rent a Car and pulled into Schlott tire. Operator was a male wearing a baseball hat. Police sent. Alec Dunn, 28, of 94 Folly Mill Road in Salisbury, was arrested and charged with operation of motor vehicle with license suspended, possess class C drugs, and possess class B drugs.

Sunday, August 25

11:46 a.m. - Caller reported a white male walking out of the store with clothing and school supplies at Walmart. Party had brown pants and white tank top. Police sent. Caleb Fox, 32, of 25 6th St. in Cambridge, was arrested and charged with larceny under $1,200, registration revoked, and uninsured motor vehicle.

Wilmington Police Log

Wilmington resident crashes car into tree, arrested

Friday, August 16:

3:25 a.m.: Joshua Michael D'Angelo of 18 Denault Dr., in Wilmington, was issued a summons for OUI-Liquor over .08%, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and speeding in violation of special regulations. This followed a report of his gray 2015 Hyundai Elantra crashing into a tree on Woburn Street.

9:48 a.m.: A black 2019 Chevy Tahoe was struck by an unknown vehicle while parked in a lot on Main Street.

2:26 p.m.: A caller at the Registry of Motor Vehicles on Middlesex Avenue reported that the person parked next to her car hit her car with their door, and when confronted about it, became aggressive and started yelling at her.

Saturday, August 17:

6:43 a.m.: Isadora Lopes Pereira of 14 Royal Crest Dr., Apt. #3, in North Andover, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and a number plate violation. This followed a stop of her white 2019 Jeep Cherokee on the Rt. 125 Hwy.

1:58 p.m.: Terrell D Jones of 6 Cottage St., in Wilmington, was issued a summons for unlicensed operations of a motor vehicle, not having a valid inspection sticker, and speeding in violation of special regulations. This followed a stop of his green 2021 Kawasaki ZX-6R on Main Street.

6:36 p.m.: Eugenie Rose Casey of 224 Winthrop Ave., in Lawrence, was arrested for shoplifting over $250 by asportation. This followed a caller at the Target on Ballardvale Street who reported a shoplifting in progress, with someone loading stolen toys into a black 2016 Dodge Caravan.

Sunday, August 18:

11 a.m.: A caller at Winchester Family Medical Center reported someone is attacking them, and continuously asked for police response.

1:41 p.m.: Pedro Enmanuel Fermin Ayala of 121 Milk St., in Methuen, was issued a summons for shoplifting by asportation. This followed a call by loss prevention requesting assistance with a shoplifter.

8:05 p.m.: An employee at the Market Basket on Main Street reported a man harassing staff and customers, then proceeding to lock himself in the bathroom for half an hour. Police met with the man, and provided him with a train ticket to take the next train to Boston.

Monday, August 19:

8:09 a.m.: Lisa M Russo of 15 Main St., Apt. #6, in North Reading, was issued a summons for a second offense of OUI- Drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation. This followed a report of her blue 2010 Mercury Milan crashing into a pole on Concord Street. The fire department transported Russo to Lahey Medical Center.

11:42 a.m.: A gray 2023 Mazda 3 and a white 2022 Honda Pilot were involved in a minor motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of Elia's Country Store on Middlesex Avenue. No injuries were reported, and paperwork was exchanged prior to police arrival.

11:12 p.m.: Andrew Nyakana of 276 Mill Rd., Apt. #2111, in Chelmsford, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and a number plate violation. This followed a stop of his gray 2019 Kia Soul near the Congregational Church on Middlesex Avenue.

Tuesday, August 20:

8:57 a.m.: A white 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee and a gray 2010 Honda Accord were involved in a minor motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Dunkin Donuts on Concord Street. No injuries were reported.

9:06 p.m.: James R Brothers of 21 Hickory Lane, in Tewksbury, was issued a summons for shoplifting by asportation. This followed a call by loss prevention stating they had someone in their office.

Wednesday, August 21:

12:23 a.m.: Mehmet Berberoglu of 3 Kimball Ct., in Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and not having a valid inspection sticker. This followed a stop of his gray 2009 Toyota Prius near the China Wok on Main Street.

12:08 p.m.: William Patrick O'Donoghue of 955 Massachusetts Ave., Apt. #235, in Cambridge, was arrested for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. This followed a stop of his white 2011 Dodge Ram 1500 on Shawsheen Avenue.

9:20 p.m.: Benjamin Aaron Schilmeister of 301 Engamore Lane, Apt. #105, in Norwood, was issued a summons for shoplifting over $250 by asportation. This followed loss prevention at the Target on Ballardvale Street reporting an incident of shoplifting that had occurred the day before at about 10 p.m.

10:05 p.m.: Kenneth E Anderson of 13 Cypress St., in Wilmington, was put into protective custody. This followed a caller at the Cumberland Farms Gas Station on Main Street reporting two juveniles appeared to be under the influence and acting aggressively, and threatening to damage his vehicle when he told them to leave.

Thursday, August 22:

8:54 a.m.: A police car was involved in a minor motor vehicle accident with a gray 2022 Nissan Rogue on Everett Avenue.

9:49 a.m.: A blue 2020 Nissan Rogue and a white 2021 Ram ProMaster 3500 were involved in a motor vehicle accident on West Street. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported.

6:32 p.m.: Glory O Lordan of 11 Kenmar Dr., Apt. #5, in Billerica, was arrested for warrant all others, a marked lanes violation, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. This followed a stop of their gray 2010 Honda Fit on Shawsheen Avenue.

Drive carefully!

School is back in session, so please be aware of children crossing streets and waiting at bus stops. Also, remember to stop when the bus displays its stop sign. (KMG Howlett photo)

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SPORTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

▲ Wilmington High School running back finds an opening for a big gain during a scrimmage against Winchester High School. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

FOOTBALL STARTS NEXT WEEK

Wildcats, Redmen and Rams all ready to go

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Football season is about to begin for high schools in Massachusetts and Tewksbury High, Wilmington High and Shawsheen Tech are all preparing for action to start.

The Redmen of Tewksbury begin their season on Sept. 13 in Danvers at 7 p.m.

TMHS then welcomes Haverhill to town on Sept. 20 for its first home game, also at 7 p.m.

This season, Tewksbury has all night games.

The Redmen host Lawrence on Sept. 27 before back-to-back road games on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 against Lowell and Billerica, respectively.

On Oct. 18, the Redmen play Chelmsford at Doucette Stadium before Methuen visits Tewksbury on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

On Nov. 1, TMHS visits North Andover for the final game of the regular season before the playoffs begin.

This year's Thanksgiving Day game between Wilmington and Tewksbury will be at Tewksbury on Nov. 28 at 10 a.m.

After a busy preseason, Wilmington opens the season officially on Sept. 13 with a home game against North Reading at 6 p.m.

On Sept. 20, the Wildcats host Saugus at 6 p.m. before visiting Bishop Fenwick on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

WHS returns to its home field on Oct. 4 against Watertown before visiting Burlington for a Thursday night game on Oct. 10 at 6 p.m.

Stoneham visits Wilmington on Oct. 18 before the Wildcats travel to Wakefield on Oct. 25.

Wilmington concludes its regular season on Nov. 1 in Melrose.

Before the season starts, Wilmington will scrimmage Medford on Friday, Aug. 30 at 10 a.m. before playing Chelmsford on Sept. 6 at Chelmsford High starting at 7 p.m. in an endowment game that will be an official game against the Lions, but will not count on the records for either squad.

Shawsheen Tech's squad starts Sept. 6 at home against Bedford at 7 p.m., the first of five non-league games to open the campaign.

On Sept. 13, the Rams play in Belmont at 6:30 p.m. before a Sept. 20 contest in Winthrop at 7 p.m. On Sept. 27, Shawsheen hosts Norwood in the school's Homecoming Game at 7 p.m.

Wayland comes to Shawsheen on Oct. 4 before the Rams have a bye week on Oct. 11.

The Rams play Commonwealth Athletic Conference games on Oct. 18 at home against Greater Lowell, Oct. 25 on the road at Greater Lawrence and Nov. 1 in Wakefield at Northeast Regional at 6 p.m.

Shawsheen is the home team on Thanksgiving morning this season against Arlington Catholic starting at 10:15 a.m.

▶ Wilmington High School wide receiver hauls in a catch during a scrimmage at Winchester High School. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

A Wilmington High School wide receiver tries to catch a pass during a scrimmage at Winchester High School. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Ram girls finish second

Shawsheen falls in finals of SJA League in Lowell

(Special to the Town Crier)

The Shawsheen Tech girls basketball team had another great summer basketball season playing in the SJA league in Lowell.

The Rams ended the season in second place behind Mill City's team.

The Rams are coached by head coach Lindsay Weatherbee and assistant coaches, Melissa Cafaro, and Mike Martin.

Shawsheen was led by seniors Izzy Ferguson from Burlington, Faith Martin from Billerica, and Krissi MacDonald from Tewksbury. The rest of the team consisted of players from four different towns including Kenzie Weatherbee and Jailyn DiNuccio of Wilmington, Erin Langone of Tewksbury, Maria Cafaro and Paige Nickerson of Billerica and Pauline Karavakis of Burlington.

Lily Oday joined the team from Innovation Academy.

"The girls had a great season," said Coach Weatherbee.

▲ Shawsheen finished second at a summer league in Lowell. (Courtesy photo)

▼ Maria Cafaro (right) of the GS Rams passes the ball as she is defended by Madeleine Meuse of GS Mill City during SJA summer basketball final at Father Maguire Park in Lowell.
(Credit Image: James Thomas for the Town Crier)

▼ Faith Martin of the GS Rams attempts to shoot a basket as she is defended by Emma Sullivan (left) of GS Mill City during a SJA basketball final at Father Maguire Park in Lowell. (Credit Image: James Thomas for the Town Crier)

▲ Mill City Eagles quarterback Calvin Boudreau,(8) eludes Randolph Oilers linebacker Josh Hardy, (51) and scores a touchdown during the game between the Mill City Eagles and the Randolph Oilers at Cawley Stadium in Lowell, MA. The Eagles won 28-12. (Credit Images: James Thomas)

Mill City wins finale

Eagles wrap up outstanding regular season with 9-1 record

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Mill City Eagles wrapped up the regular season with a 42-8 thumping of the Granite State Destroyers on Saturday.

The Eagles ended the season with a 9-1 record and finished first in the ECFL's East Conference.

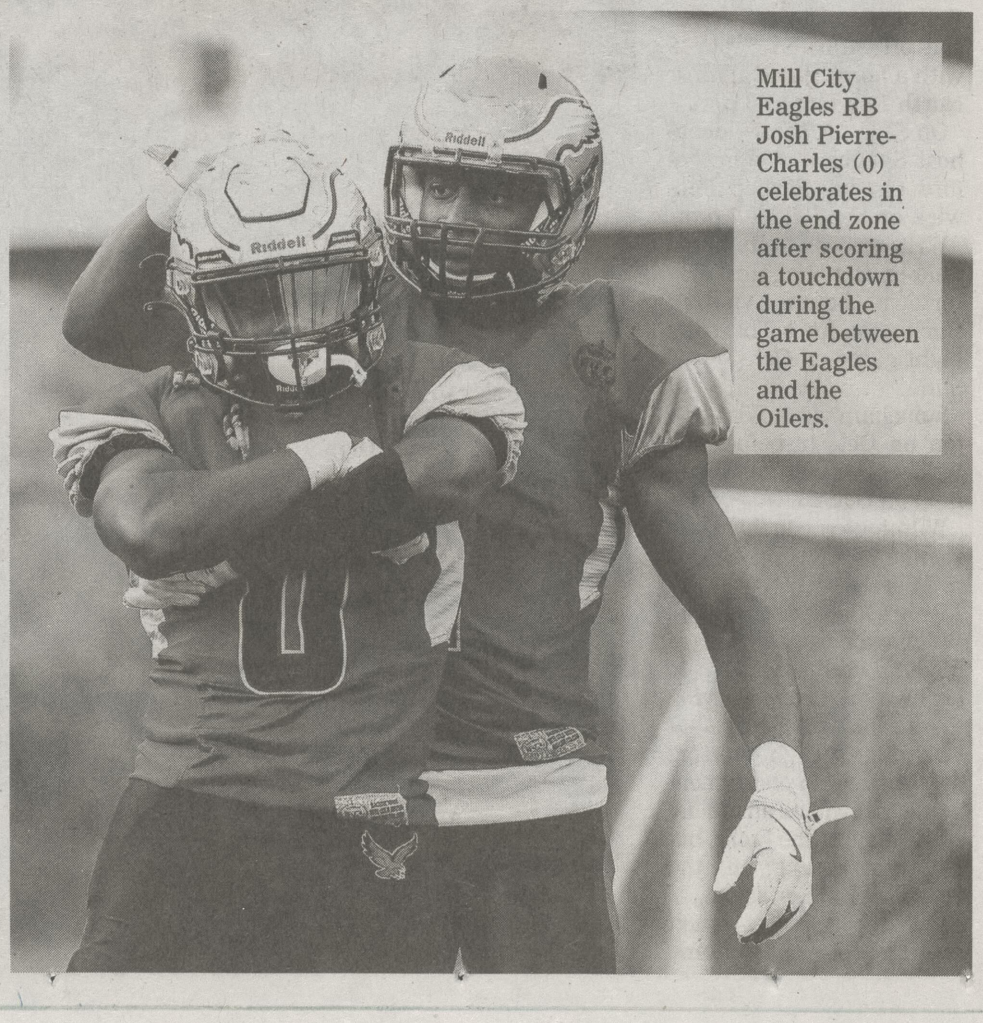
Next up for Mill City will be the playoffs.

The dominating season by the Eagles saw the team score 329 points, an average of almost 33 points per game, while allowing only 159 points.

The Eagles play their home games at Lowell's Cawley Stadium and have five local players on the roster.

Josiah Martinez and Johnathan Martinez of Wilmington are members of the Mill City squad along with Tewksbury's Ryan Crockett and Nick Zullo. Former Shawsheen player Liam Fitzgerald of Burlington, also plays for the team.

Mill City Eagles quarterback Calvin Boudreau, (8) celebrates with teammate Brendon Frost (88) after scoring a touchdown during the game between the Mill City Eagles and the Randolph Oilers.



Mill City Eagles RB Josh Pierre-Charles (0) celebrates in the end zone after scoring a touchdown during the game between the Eagles and the Oilers.

Kearney ready to contribute at UNE

Former TMHS standout playing college football for Maine school

By JASON COOKE
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Cam Kearney will never forget the first time he opened a college football playbook.

"It's very much bigger than high school," he said with a grin.

It's one of the many defining moments in a whirlwind of the last two weeks that have welcomed Kearney to collegiate football.

The freshman wide receiver and 2024 Tewksbury High graduate arrived at his new four-year home — The University of New England — on Aug. 15.

It's been all gas and no brakes from there.

"Long days with meetings all day, practice, and lifts, but just getting into it and trying to learn everything. It's good, and it feels good to get back," Kearney said. "It's way more intense than high school, but I'm adapting to it."

It's all part of becoming a college football player.

But his abilities should be able to do most of the talking. After a standout season with the Redmen last fall that saw him total 570 receiving yards, 33 receptions, and five touchdowns, the athletic and elusive receiver caught the attention of a handful of local Div. 3 programs.

▲ Former TMHS standout Cam Kearney is playing college football at the University of New England in Maine. (Courtesy photo)

Kearney made headlines in Tewksbury's thrilling 28-21 rout of Burlington in the Div. 4 Elite 8, hauling in a 30-yard game-clinching touchdown while recovering a fumble with seconds left on the clock to push the surging Redmen to the Final Four.

That's when heads really started to turn.

"I felt like I had an alright junior year and was a little skeptical on whether I could or not," he said of playing in college. "Once senior year got started, that's when I felt like I could do this for another four years."

Kearney ultimately chose UNE — joining ex-Tewksbury teammate Michael Sullivan — among a few other offers he received in the recruiting process. It's been nice having his old teammate by his side while acclimating to a new routine.

"He's been helping me too, just getting to know everything and stuff like that," Kearney said. "It made me a little more comfortable knowing that someone from Tewksbury was here."

Before making the trip north to Maine, Kearney made sure to double down on his offseason training. He trained with his fellow college-bound freshmen Braydon Aylward (Nichols) and Kenneth Nguyen (Endicott) while staying consistent with an intense on-field training program.

"I went more intense during my on-field workouts because I knew it would be more intense once I got up here, so I kind of just got into that and got more conditioned," he said.

After a successful offseason ahead of his senior season at Tewksbury opened the door to play at the next level, Kearney has seen firsthand how his hard work translated directly into results on the field. It motivated him to keep going this summer.

"I got more explosive, and I felt like I had a higher IQ," said Kearney. "I just knew the game better. I brought all that into the offseason mentally and physically and worked harder."

He also uncovered his ability to be a dual threat. Kearney made three interceptions on defense last season for the Redmen, and he's doing anything he can in practice to showcase his ability to play on either side of the football.

"I'm just trying to stay in the playbook because learning everything new is tough right now," Kearney said. "I feel like I have it down right now, and I just got to get on the field and go out there and make a few plays."

Kearney and UNE hit the field Saturday, Sept. 7 at Coast Guard to open the season.

Conley has come a long way

Tewksbury volleyball standout playing at Regis College

By JASON COOKE
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

McKayla Conley remembers the day like it was yesterday.

"To be honest, I went into my freshman year kind of expecting (to play on) the freshman team or honestly being cut because I had never touched a volleyball before," said Conley, a 2024 TMHS graduate.

This month, Conley arrived at Regis College to prep for her first collegiate volleyball season.

What a difference four years can make.

Conley went on to enjoy a standout career on the Redmen volleyball squad and was a key contributor to the team's first-ever state championship in 2022. What was first an attempt to have fun with a sport as a rising high school freshman has evolved into a deep passion for the game.

And she's entering Regis at just the right time.

Last season, the program posted a program-best 26 wins (26-8) while also capturing the most conference wins with a 14-1 mark in the GNAC.

But while Conley's volleyball game is in a vastly different place than it was four years ago, perhaps a bigger challenge has presented itself.

She's recovering from ACL and meniscus reconstruction surgery after suffering an injury in the final game of her senior season last fall. She underwent surgery in December and has just recently begun a return-to-play process that should have her fully cleared to compete on the court in mid-September.

Conley started team-oriented training on Aug. 18 and has done what she can within her restrictions.

"It can be frustrating, but for the most part, it's very exciting," she said. "My teammates are very understanding and check in on me all the time, so I get to talk to them about it and they're very helpful and supportive."

However, Conley is used to having to work that much harder than her peers. That mindset began the summer before her freshman year of high school.

"I took it upon myself in the summer going into freshman year to not only make every captain's practice that I could, but to do a lot of touches on my own at home with a ball against the wall or with one of my family members," she said.

That's when Conley fell in love with the game.

She wasn't competing at the club level and taking herself through summer workouts for the mere goal of getting better. She did it because she loved it, and seeing that extra work come to life on the court was simply a bonus to her labor.

"Sophomore year is when I realized how much I really loved to play, and I thought it was worth to put in a lot of the extra work to hopefully achieve this goal," recalled Conley.

It didn't take long for Conley to become a college-level player.

She was a stalwart on Tewksbury's 2022 state championship squad that took down top-seeded Dennis-Yarmouth on the way to the program's first banner.

"That was so exciting," said Conley of the title. "I felt very close with everyone on the team, so it was good to do it with all my best friends. It was very fun."

Conley and the Redmen didn't have as much luck the following season, falling to No. 8 Wayland in the first round of the state tournament. It was that game in which Conley suffered her injury.

Still, that didn't stop her from receiving multiple college offers and landing a commitment at Regis.

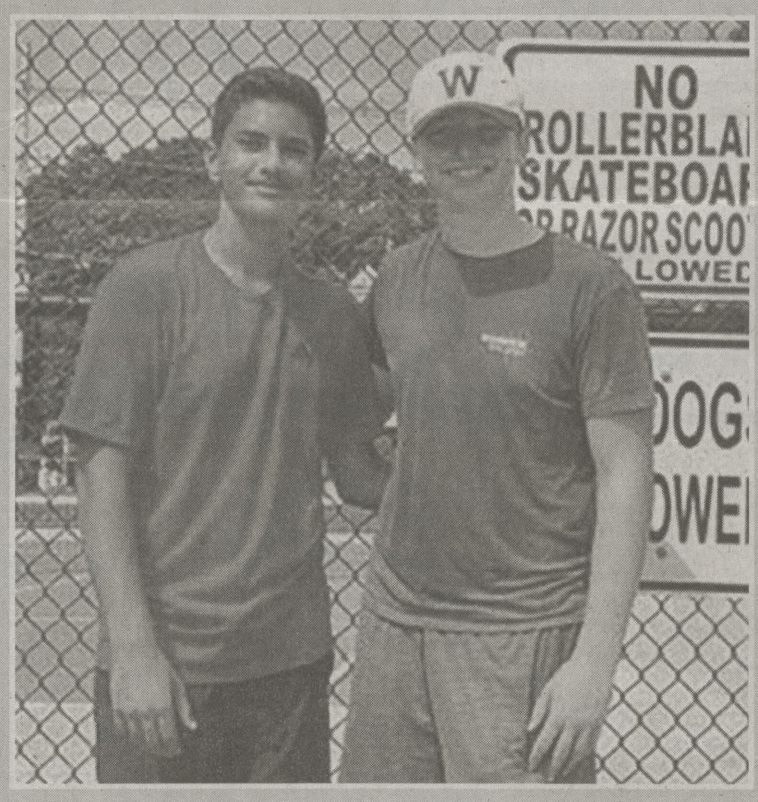
"I visited the school, and I loved the campus," Conley said. "I met a couple of the girls and they were so nice, and I just loved the opportunities and support systems that the school had to offer.

I just took it and ran with it."

As Conley gears up for the Pride's season-opening tri-match with Fisher College and Thomas College on Friday, Aug. 30, she has one piece of advice for any incoming freshman at TMHS this fall.

"I would say to just stick with it," she said. "It's hard and can be frustrating at times and I remember feeling embarrassed because I felt like everyone around me was doing so much better. But after watching three years of incoming freshmen come in, everyone is in the same boat. Those feelings of frustration and embarrassment shouldn't prevent you from continuing to do something that you enjoy."

McKayla Conley is playing volleyball for Regis College this fall. (Courtesy photo)



◀ Sanjeev Puvanendrakumar and Nick DiGiovanni played in the boys final for the WIlmington Open tennis tournament recently. (Courtesy photo)

Wilmington Open wraps up

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The boys final was recently held for the Wilmington Open tennis tournament and Sanjeev Puvanendrakumar defeated Nick DiGiovanni, 8-5, for the championship.

The Friends of Wilmington Tennis want to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations that help support the tournament and Wilmington's High School tennis teams and their coaches: The Willows Racquet Club, Wilson Wolfe Real Estate, Elia's Country Store, Top Linen Cleaners and Tremezzo's.

Email *friendswtennis@gmail.com* with questions about future events or to help out with tennis in Wilmington.

LEXINGTON EVENT COMING SOON

Tournament Director Jeff Semon of Woburn has announced the first Lexington Tennis Doubles Championship.

"The goal of the LTDC is to engage tennis players of all levels and abilities in friendly competition to grow and sustain the game of tennis in Lexington and beyond," Semon said.

The LTDC will take place at the newly resurfaced Gallagher Tennis Courts (near Lexington High).

In addition to the resurfacing, the LTDC will take advantage of the new court lighting by beginning first-round matches (depending on the size of each draw) late afternoon/evening on Thursday, Sept. 19 and late afternoon/evening Friday, Sept. 20.

For draws with fewer participants, first round matches may begin over the weekend.

The LTDC is planned as a four-day tournament (Thursday 9/19/24 - Sunday 9/22/24) to accommodate busy weekend schedules, contingency for rain delays, and aims to minimize the number of matches played per day.

DOUBLES DRAWS/LEVELS:

(Player can enter two doubles draws)

- Mens Elite, A, B
- Womens: A, B
- Mixed: Elite, A, B
- Boys & Girls Junior Doubles (13 & Under)

GUIDE FOR DRAW SELECTION:

(USTA Rating / UTR Rating)

- Elite Level: 4.5+ USTA / 7+ UTR
- A Level: 4.0 - 4.5 USTA / 5.0 - 7.0 UTR
- B Level: under 4.0 USTA / under 5.0 UTR

FEES:

Doubles Team $80 ($40/person)

Proceeds from LTDC will benefit the Lexington Recreation Department.

SIGN UP FORM

Deadline for sign up is Sunday, September 15.

(please have both partners sign up for contact info & t-shirt size)

Email: *jeffsemonma@gmail.com* for any questions.

Visit *https://sites.google.com/view/lexingtontennisdoubles/home* for more information.

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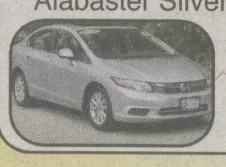
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